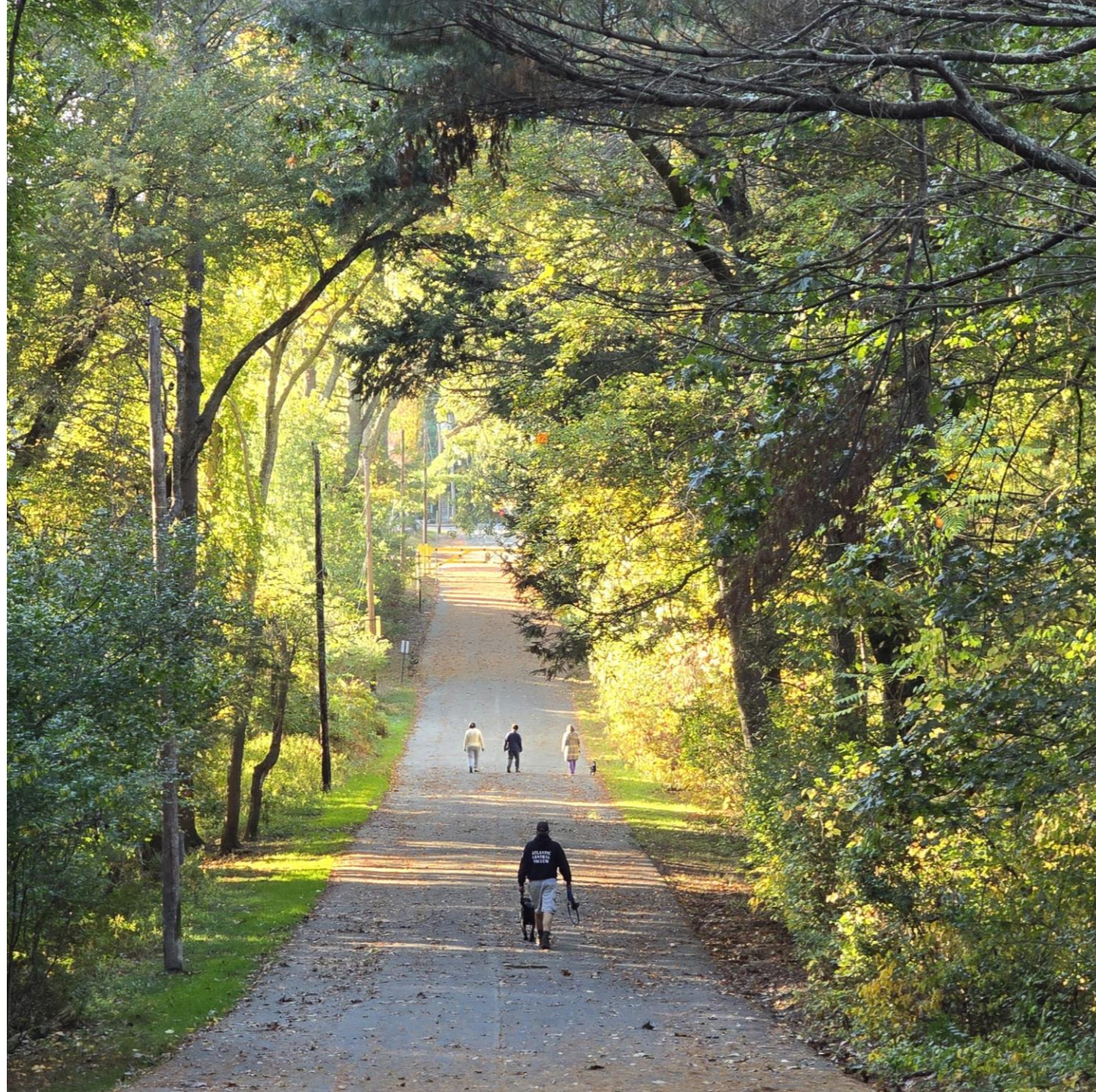


2024 MetroWest Trails Summit

Ashland Community Center



MetroWest Greenways

MAPC LandLine Network Project

David Loutzenheiser



Past Trail Summits



How does MAPC classify regional trails?

Greenways

Shared use path

Accessible hard
packed surface

Wide enough for
two way travel



Bike lane and
sidewalk

Shared Street (low
traffic)



How does MAPC classify regional trails?

Hybrid

Double track/cart
path

Aqueduct trails

Surface quality and
width varies

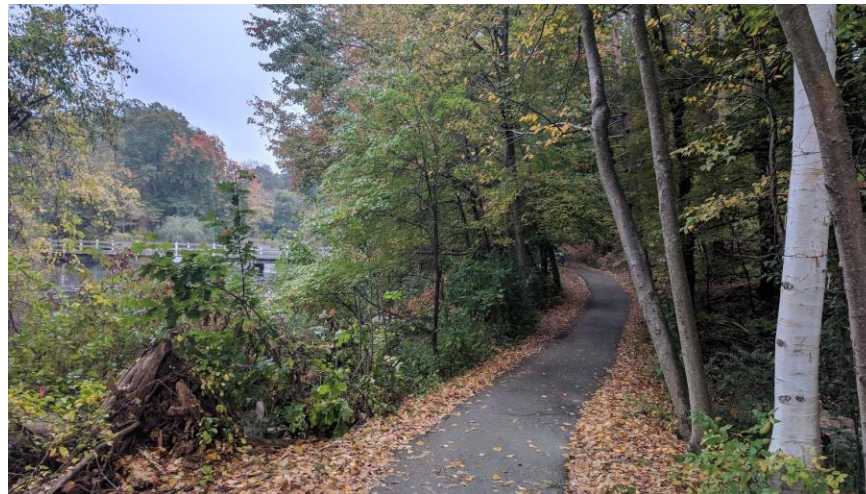


Regional Foot Trail

Single track

Walking allowed

May or may not allow
bikes, dogs, horses



MetroWest Trails and Greenways

Current Status

Legend

- Greenway
- In Progress Greenway
- Envisioned Greenway
- Regional Foot Trail
- Envisioned Regional Foot Trail
- East Coast Greenway

Full map can be viewed at:

<https://mapc.ma/landlinemap>

Comprehensive Trail Inventory

<https://trailmap.mapc.org/>

0 0.75 1.5 3 Miles

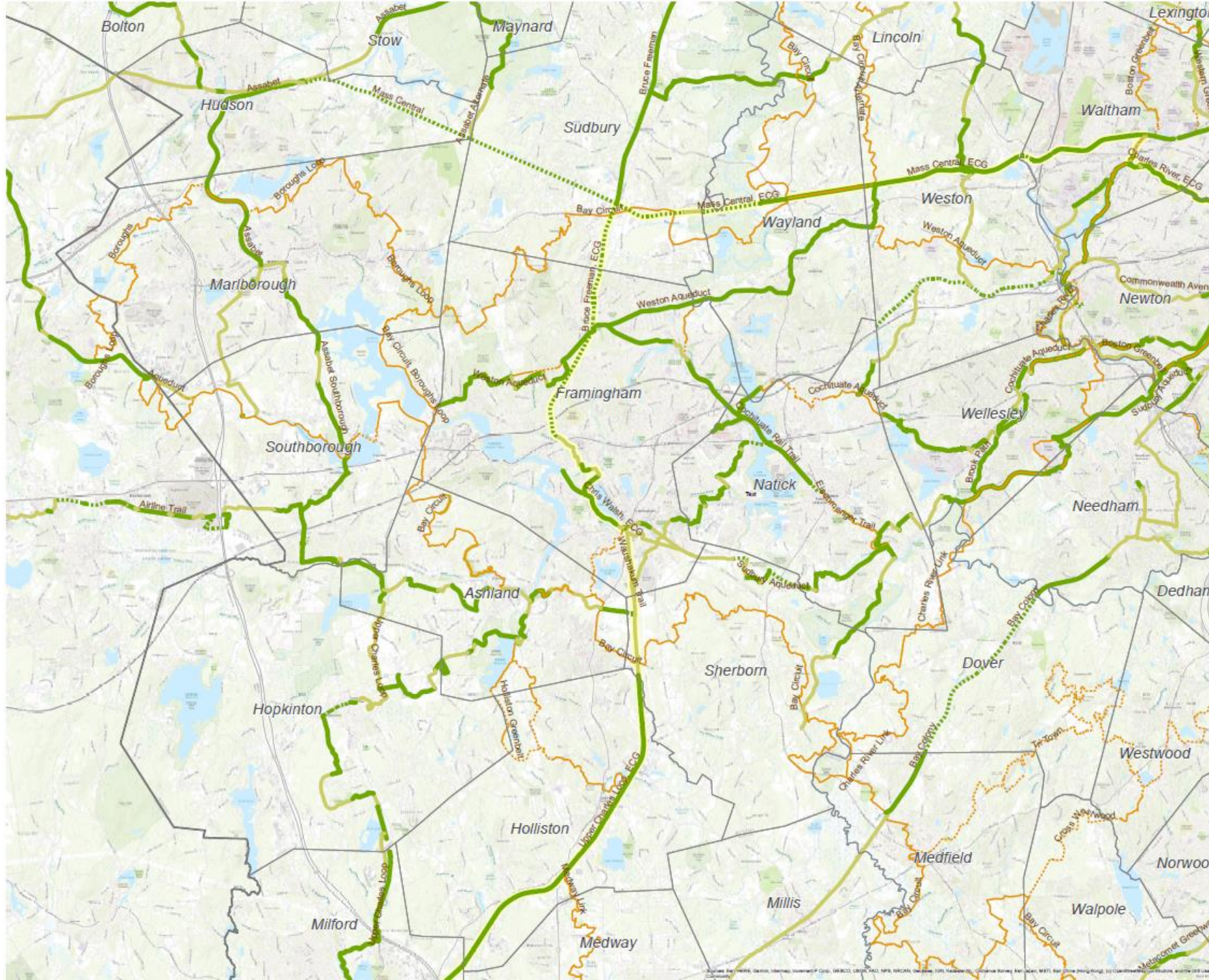


The information depicted on this map is for planning purposes only. It is not adequate for legal boundary definition, regulatory interpretation, or parcel-level analyses.

Produced by:
Metropolitan Area Planning Council
60 Temple Place, Boston, MA 02111 | (617) 933-0700

Data Sources:
Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)
Massachusetts Geographic Information System (MassGIS)
Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)

October 2024



Framingham

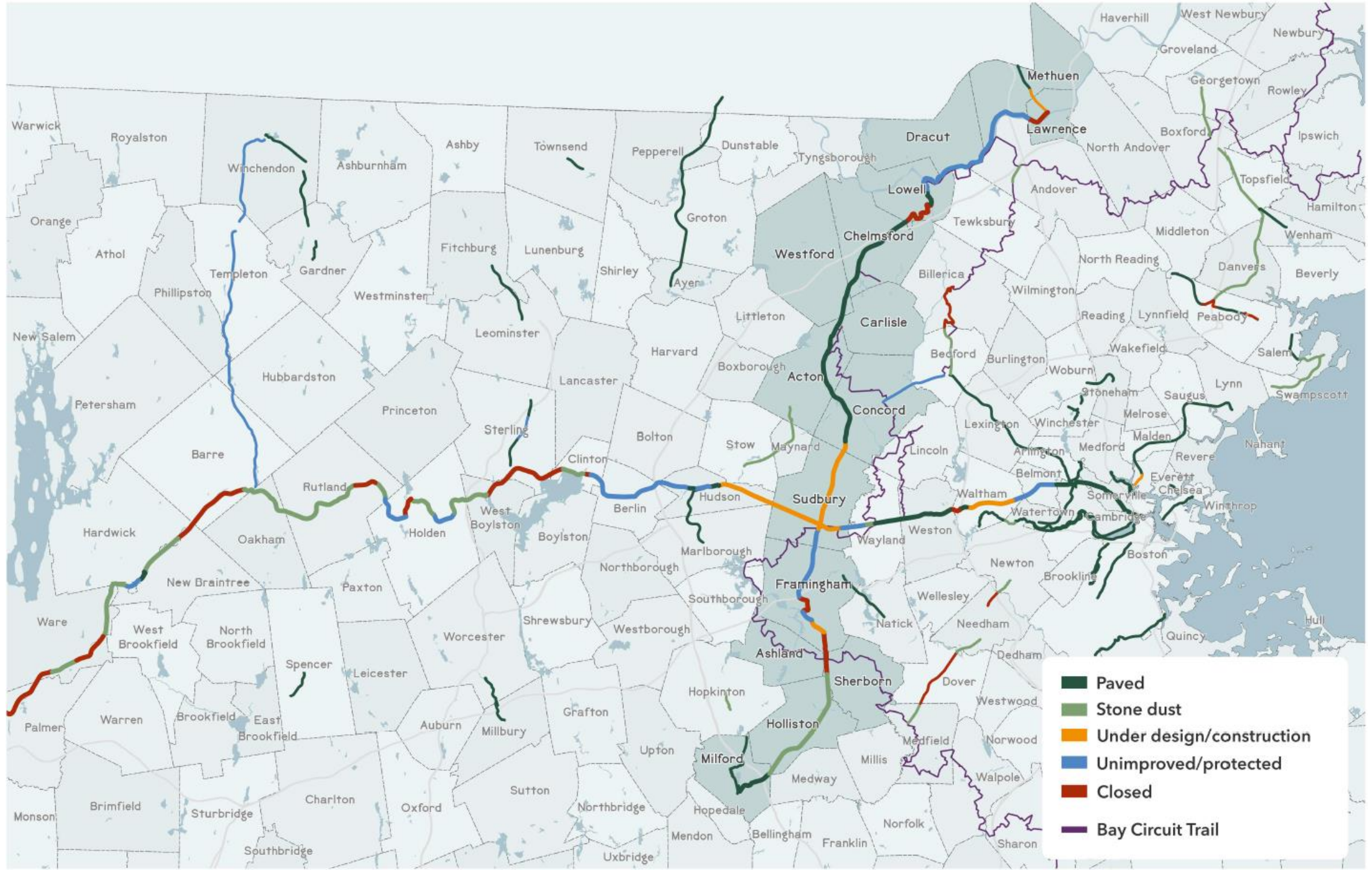
Progress since last years summit

Sarkis Sarkisian

Ron Chick

Herb Nolan





Bruce Freeman Rail Trail

Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trails Committee Update

June 6, 2024



Project Team

City of Framingham

Project Proponent

Responsible for funding the design

BETA Group, Inc.

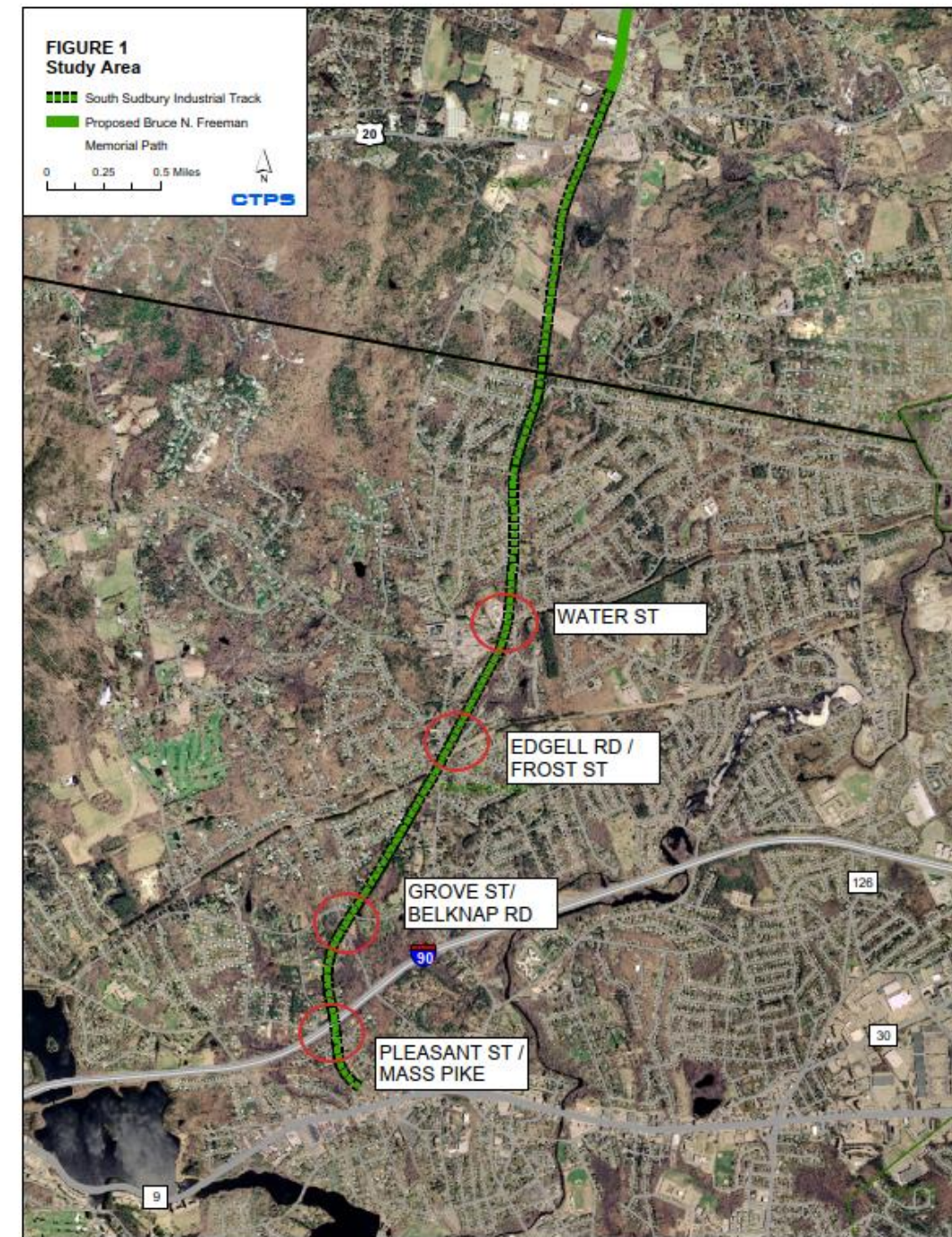
Responsible for Design

MassDOT's Highway Division

Responsible for administering the Design Process and providing Construction Funding and Administration

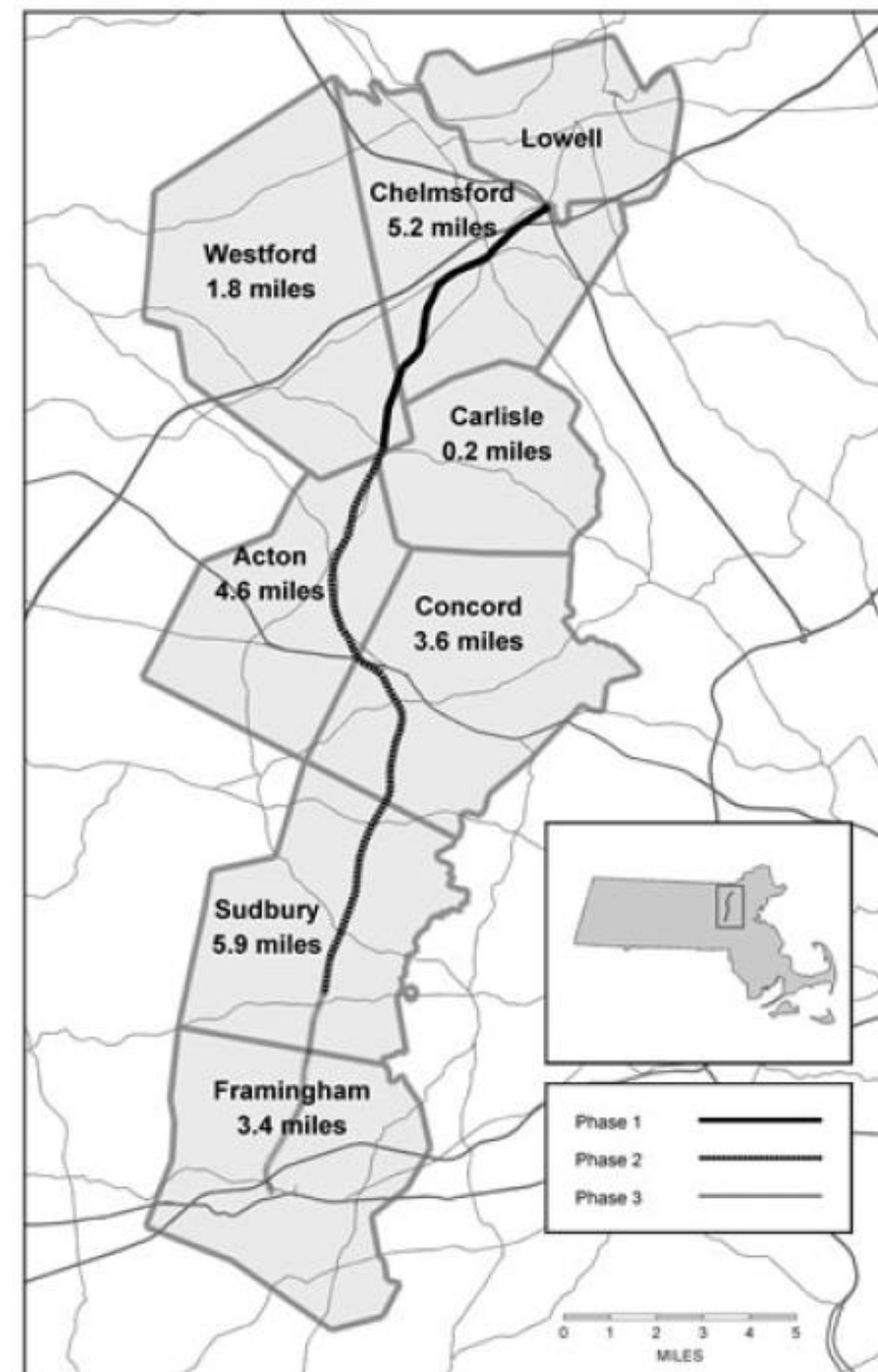
Overview

- Limits – 3.5 miles from Route 9 to Sudbury Town Line
- Two bridges
 - Over the Mass Pike
 - Over Grove Street
- 5 at grade road crossings
 - Pleasant Street
 - Belknap Road
 - Edgell Road
 - Frost Street
 - Water Street
- Multiple cross culverts



Regional Network

- In Construction
 - BFRT MassDOT - Concord and Sudbury (North)
- Future Connections
 - Mass Central Trail in Sudbury and Wayland (2027)
 - Upper Charles Extension
 - BFRT MassDOT - Sudbury Connection to Framingham at 25% Design



Design Process

- MassDOT TIP Project
- Project separated into 2 phases per MassDOT request
 - Phase 1 – Frost Street to Town Line (Eaton Road West)
 - Phase 2 – Route 9 to Frost Street
- Conceptual (10%) Design for entire corridor
- 25% Design – Phase 1
- 75% Design – Phase 1
- 100% Design – Phase 1
- Advertise Phase 1 for Construction
- Similar design process for Phase 2
 - Request MassDOT project review committee approval (Fall 2024)

Design Process

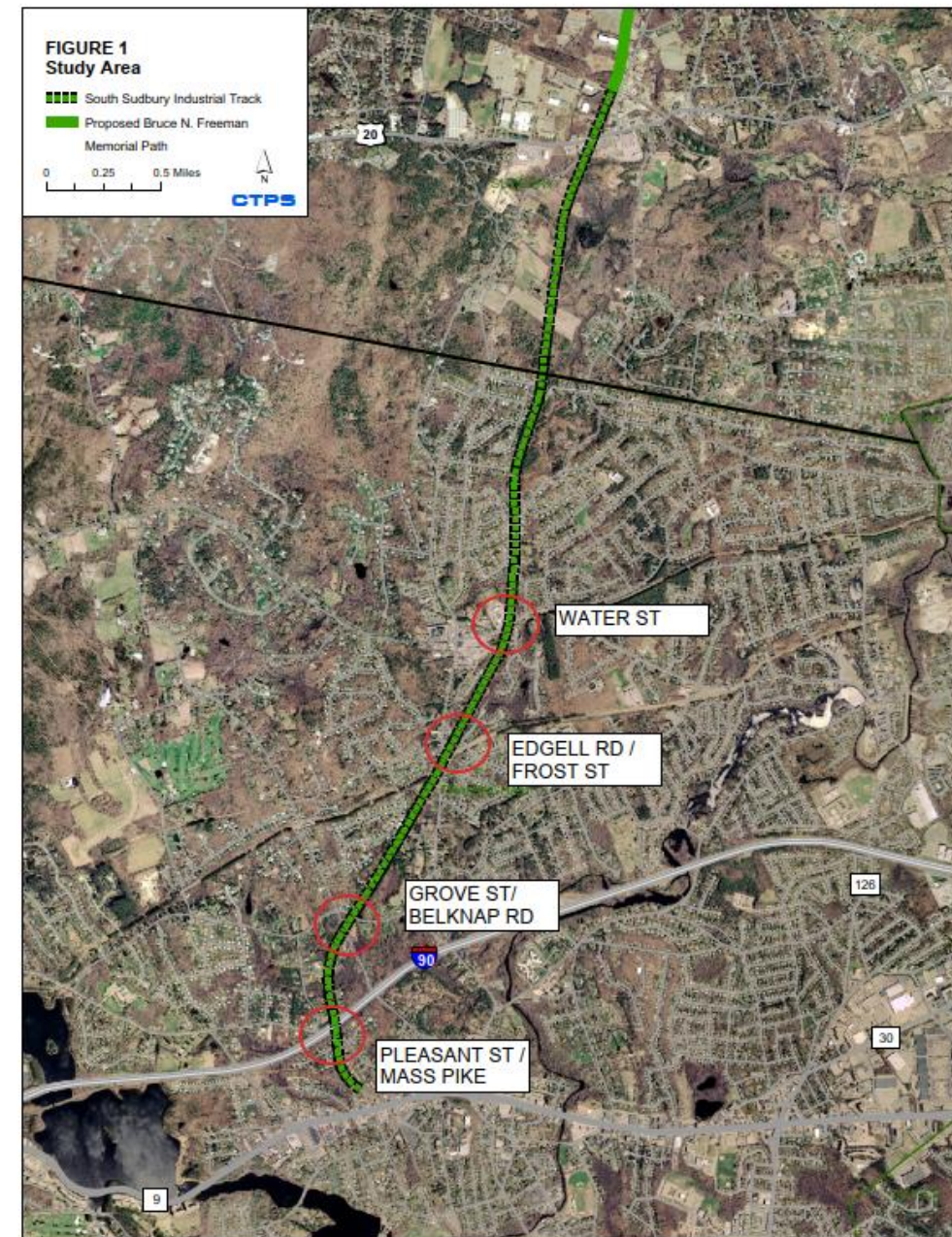
- 10% Concept
 - Alignment
 - Typical sections
 - Environmental impacts
 - Bridge Condition
 - Culvert Assessment
 - Road Crossings
- Public Outreach
 - Informational Meetings

Progress

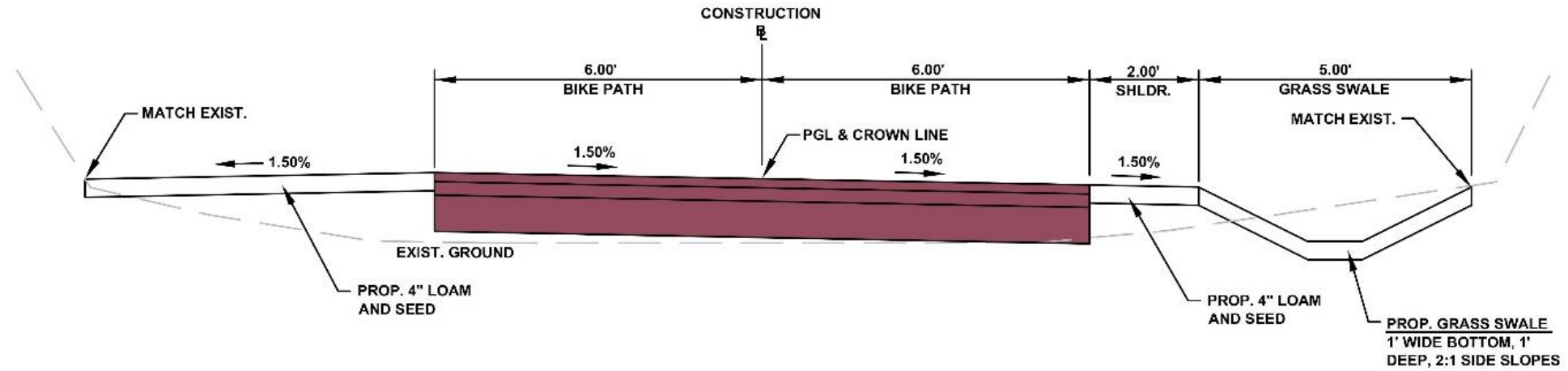
- On-going coordination with MassDOT for Phase 1 – Frost Street to Town line
- Coordination with Sudbury segment of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail including possible termination at Eaton Road in Framingham
- Resource Area Delineation entire corridor – completed May 2024
- Traffic Counts for at grade road crossings – completed May 2024
- Evaluation of existing cross culverts – Completed June 2024
- Meeting with Framingham Bike-Ped Committee – June 2024
- Field Survey entire corridor – completed September 2024
- Conceptual Design - Path Alignment Entire corridor - Ongoing
- Grove Street Alignment Alternatives – Ongoing
- MassDOT pre-25% design review Phase 1 – early spring 2025

Trail Elements - Alignmen

- Northern Limits - Eaton Road West
- Southern Limits – Route 9



Trail Elements - Typical Section



Proposed
Construction

Trail Elements – Road Crossing and



Existing
Water
Street



Existing
Frost Street

Proposed Example
(CRT)



Bridges



Over Mass Pike

- Retrofit
- Vertical Clearance < MassDOT Standard

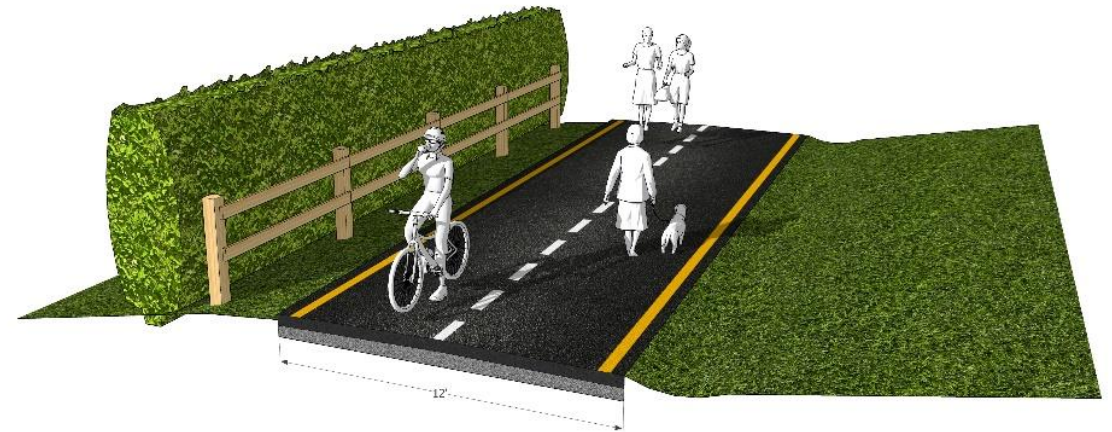


Over Grove Street

- Replacement

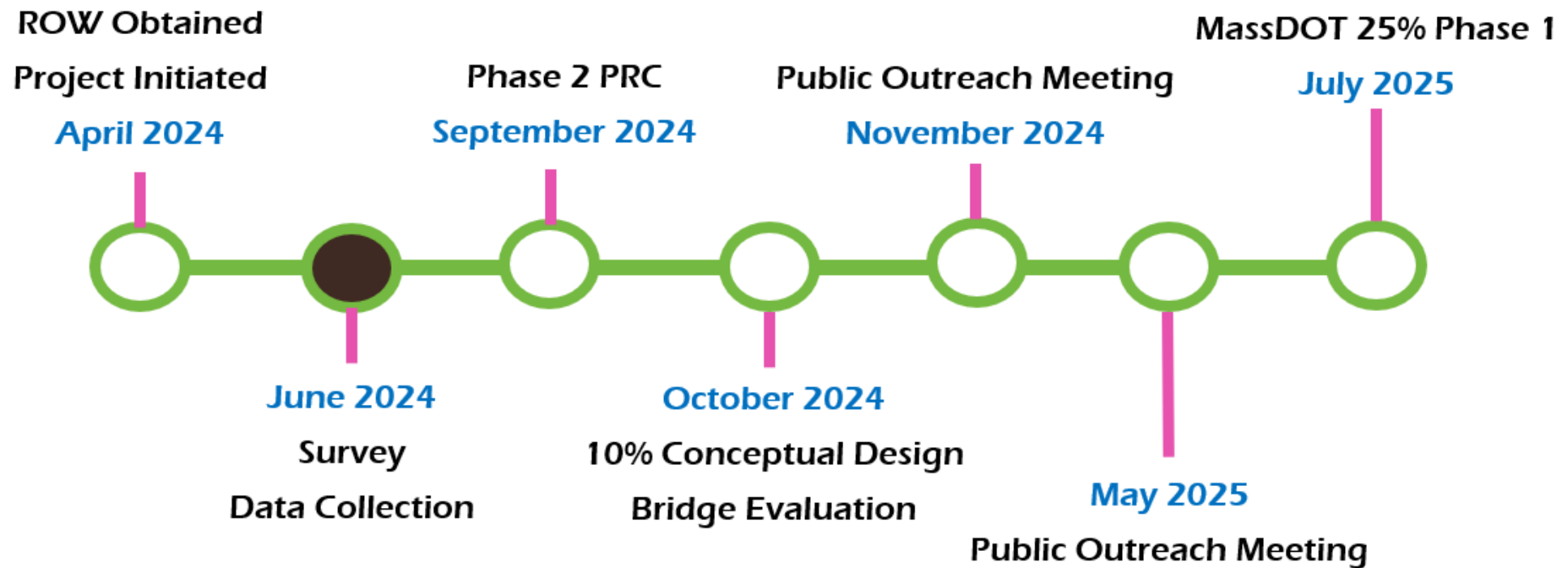
Trail Elements - Amenities

- Screening Options
- Integrate Existing Whistle Stop Posts
- Bike Racks
- Benches
- Interpretive Signs/Informational Kiosks



Next Steps

- Continue Coordination with MassDOT
- Complete 10% Design and Pre-25% Design Process
- 25% Design – Phase 1
- MassDOT PRC Approval - Phase 2

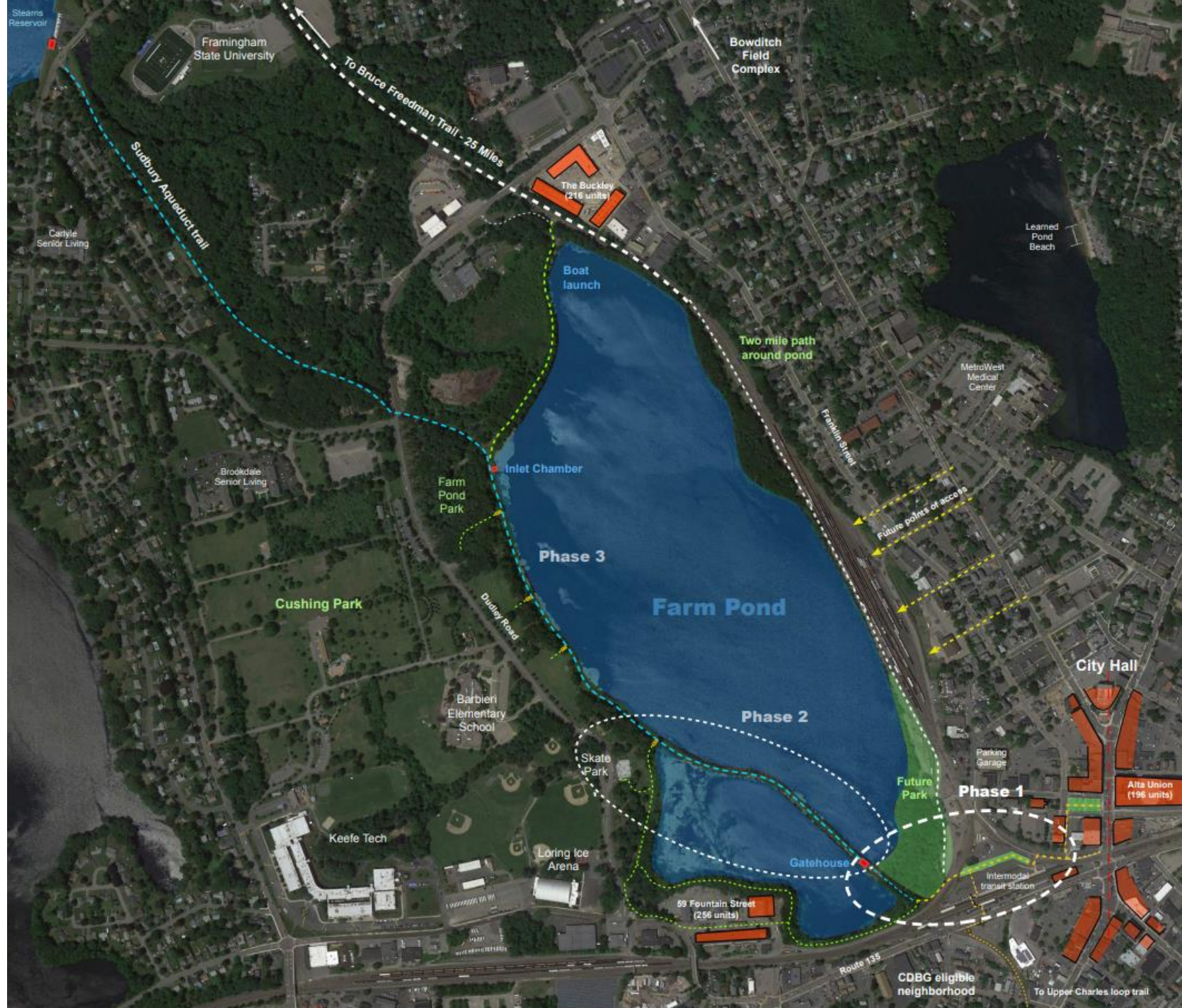


REP. CHRIS WALSH FARM POND AQUEDUCT TRAIL

- + Rep. Chris Walsh honorably served the community of Framingham in the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 2010 to 2018. In his time in the legislature, Rep. Walsh was known for his passion for the people he served, for his expansive vision, and for a wide range of policy initiatives including downtown revitalization, pedestrian trails, water resources protection, architectural restoration and the importance of one's surroundings on quality of life. The Farm Pond Aqueduct Project encompasses aspects of all of these values. This project will establish a permanent and vibrant memorial to Chris's service and allow residents of Framingham and the greater region to experience and enjoy all the things that were important to Chris and that he loved about Framingham. It is a way for both the community and Chris's legislative colleagues to appropriately honor his memory and legacy.

Project Scope

- + Project includes improvements to the existing aqueduct trail across Farm Pond, refurbishment of the existing pump house structure, and the addition of boardwalks to allow passage around the pump house. Project encompasses approximately 0.5 mi. of trail, from Farm Pond Park at its western limit to the Framingham MBTA parking lot on the east. Property owners include the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, with smaller portions of the project under the control of CSX Freight Rail and the MBTA. The project will allow for pedestrian access to and from downtown Framingham to the public recreation areas at Farm Pond Park and Cushing Memorial Park.

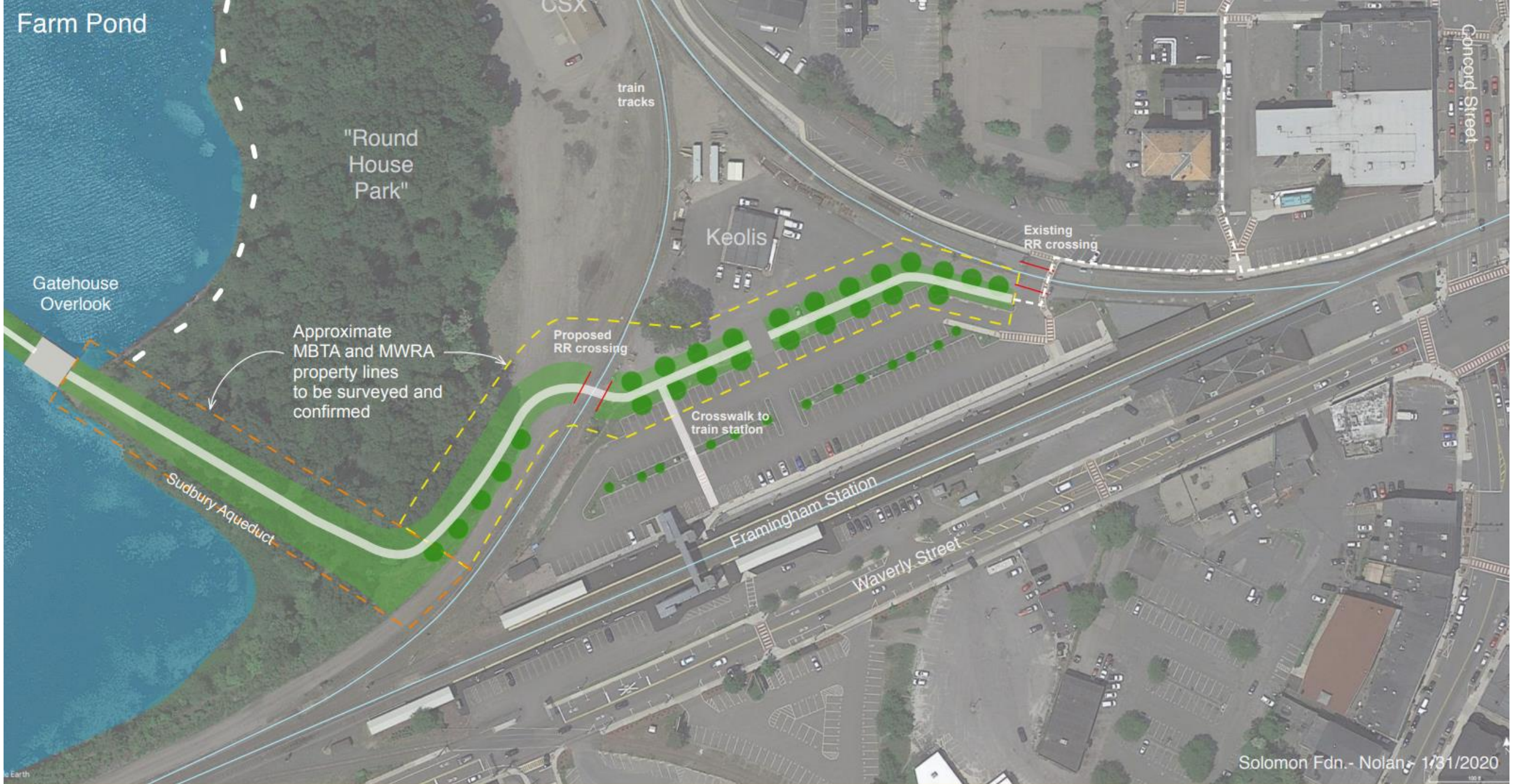


Chris Walsh Memorial Trail System

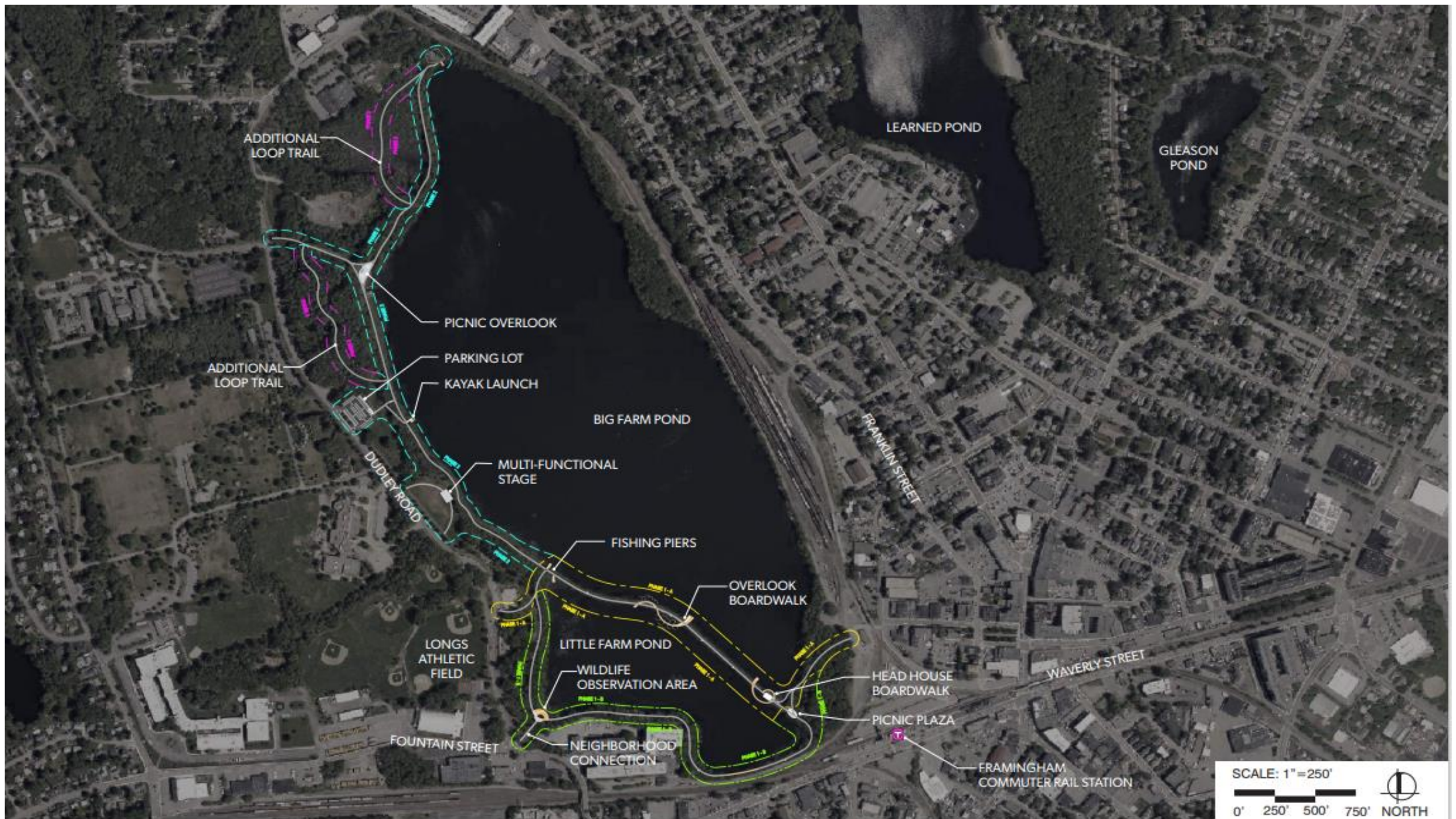
Phase one: Connect downtown Framingham to the edge of Farm Pond

Phase two: Connect the gatehouse site across the pond to Farm Pond Park

Future phases: Extend accessible paths all the way around Farm Pond and connect to an expanding regional trail system



Chris Walsh Trail System - Phase 1: Connecting downtown Framingham to Farm Pond



FRAMINGHAM CHRIS WALSH MEMORIAL TRAIL SYSTEM OVERALL CONCEPT PLAN NOVEMBER 1, 2022

Farm Pond

Centre Common

The steeple is a landmark visible from Farm Pond

Potential development

Potential re development

Steeple Path

Alternative walk

Existing walkway

Filtered view to the pond and trail

+5% sloped ramp

+24 Ped. bridge

+5% sloped walk

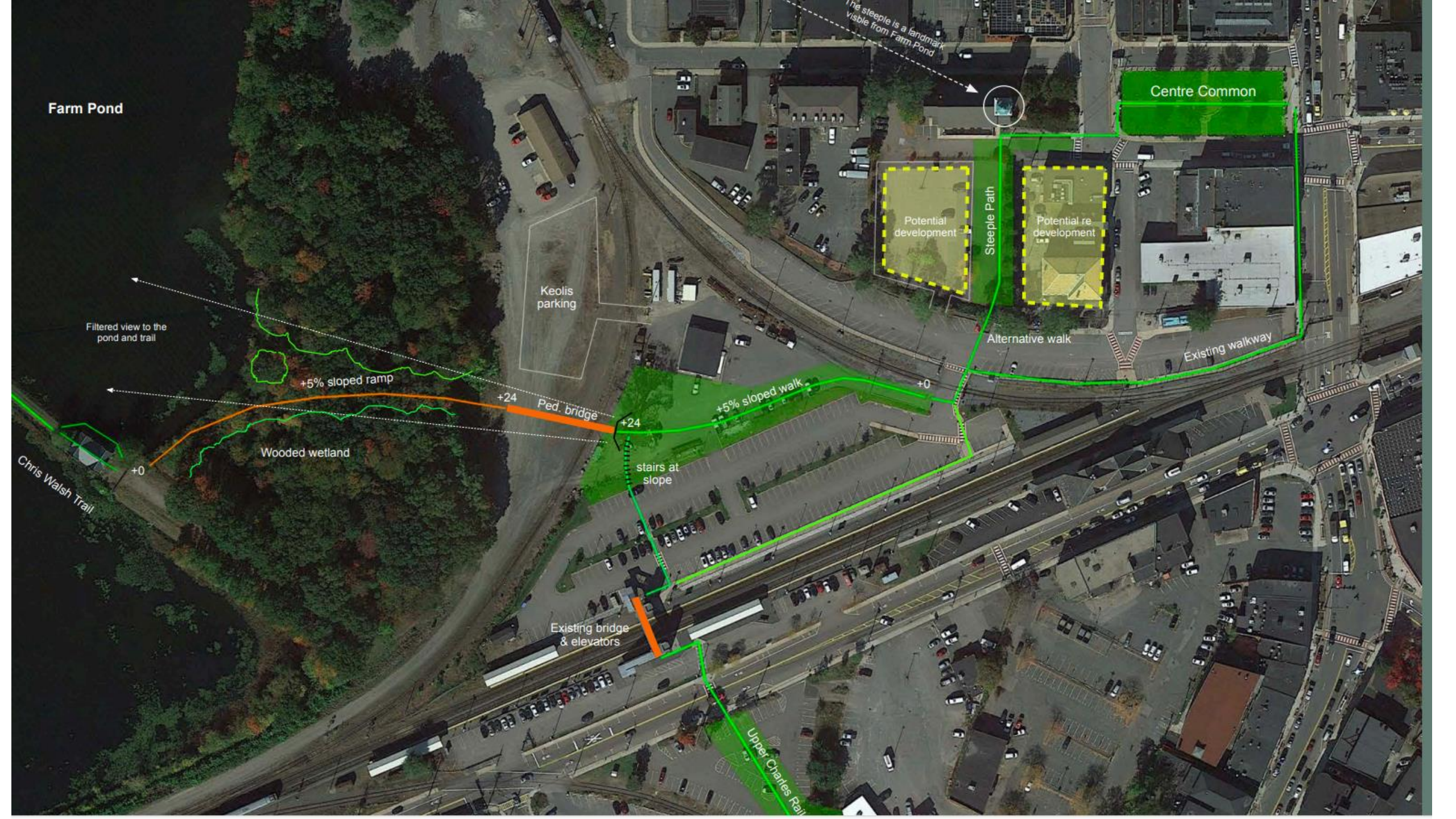
+24 stairs at slope

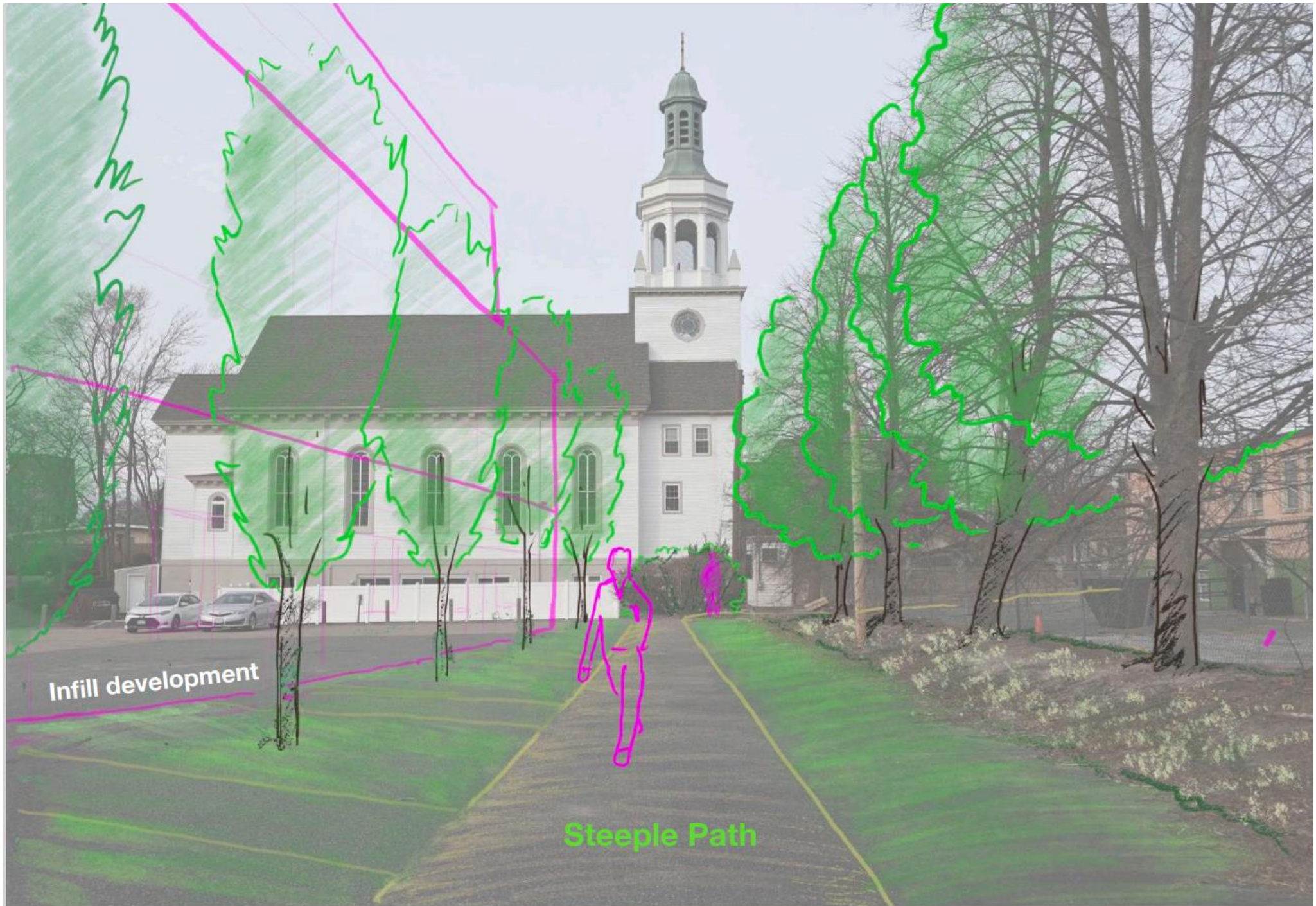
Existing bridge & elevators

Upper Charles Rail

Wooded wetland

Chris Walsh Trail

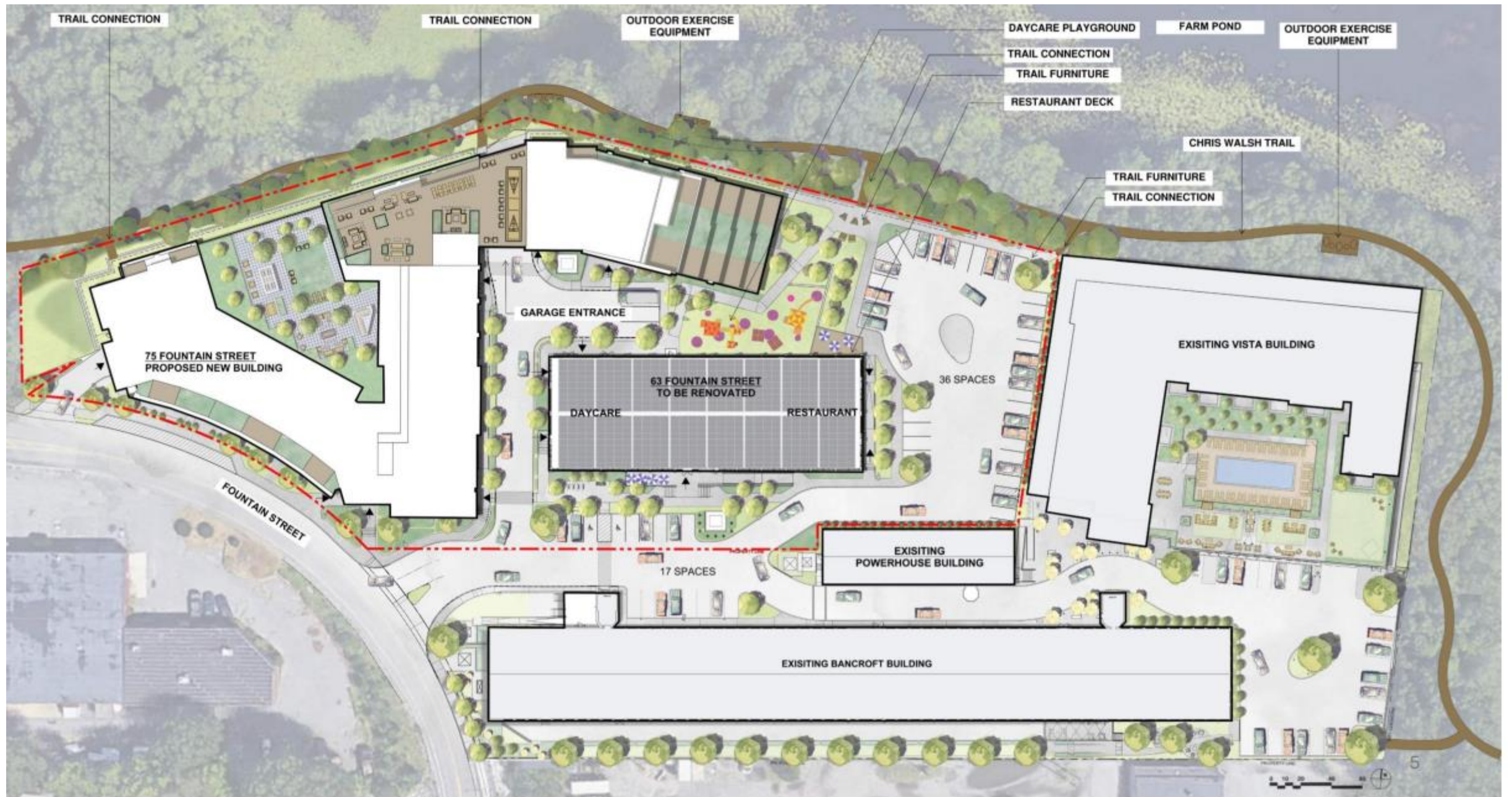


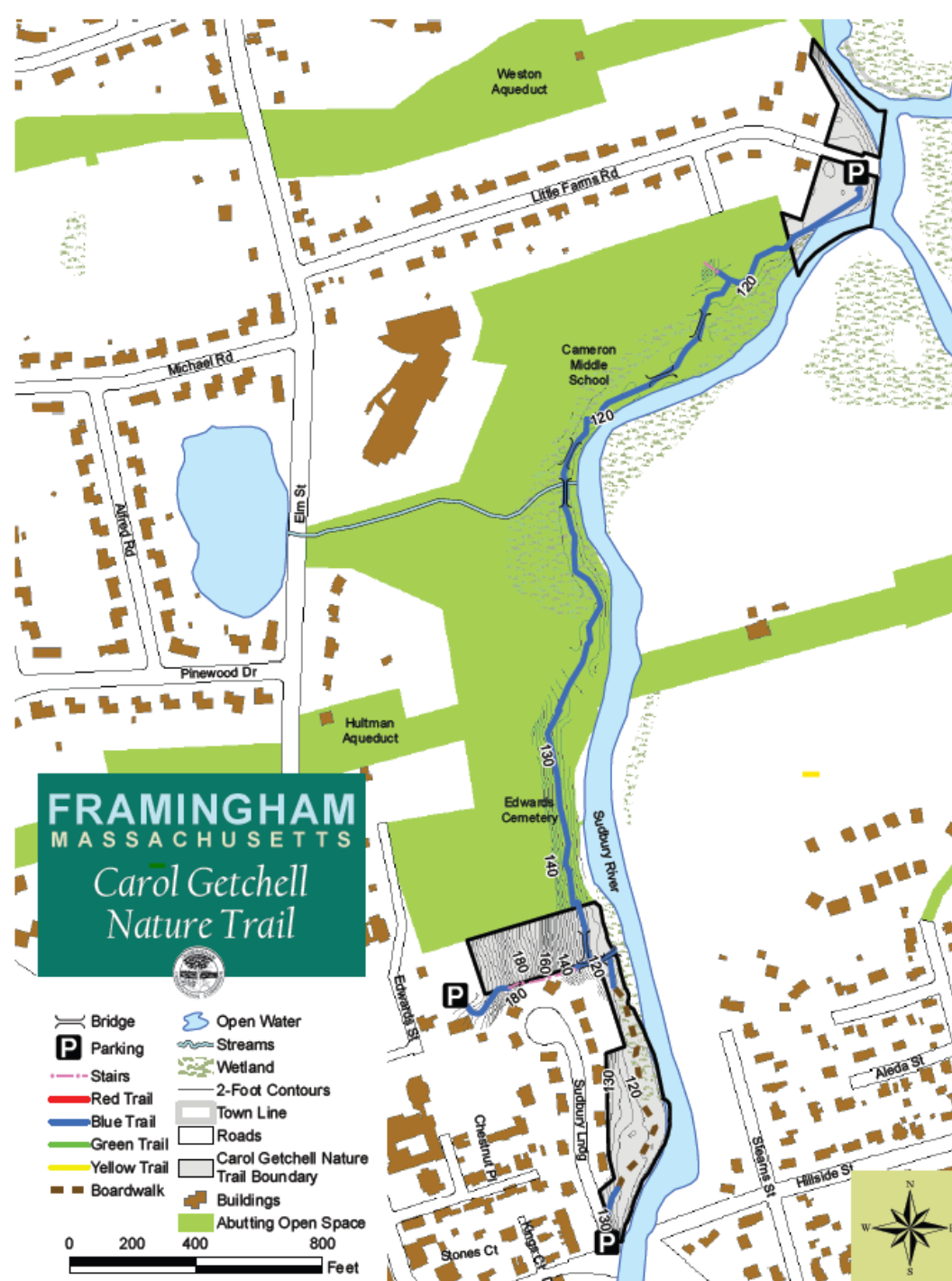


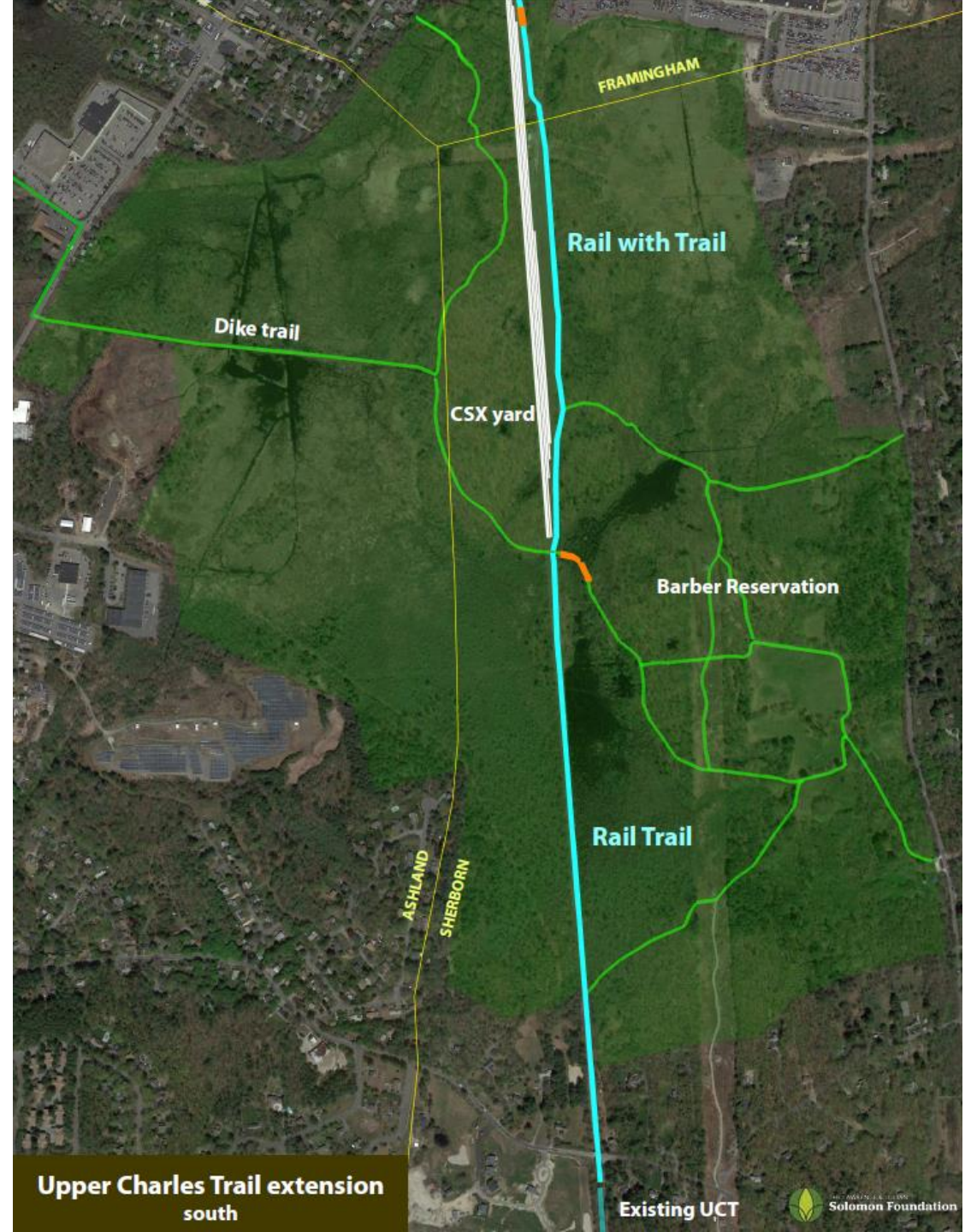
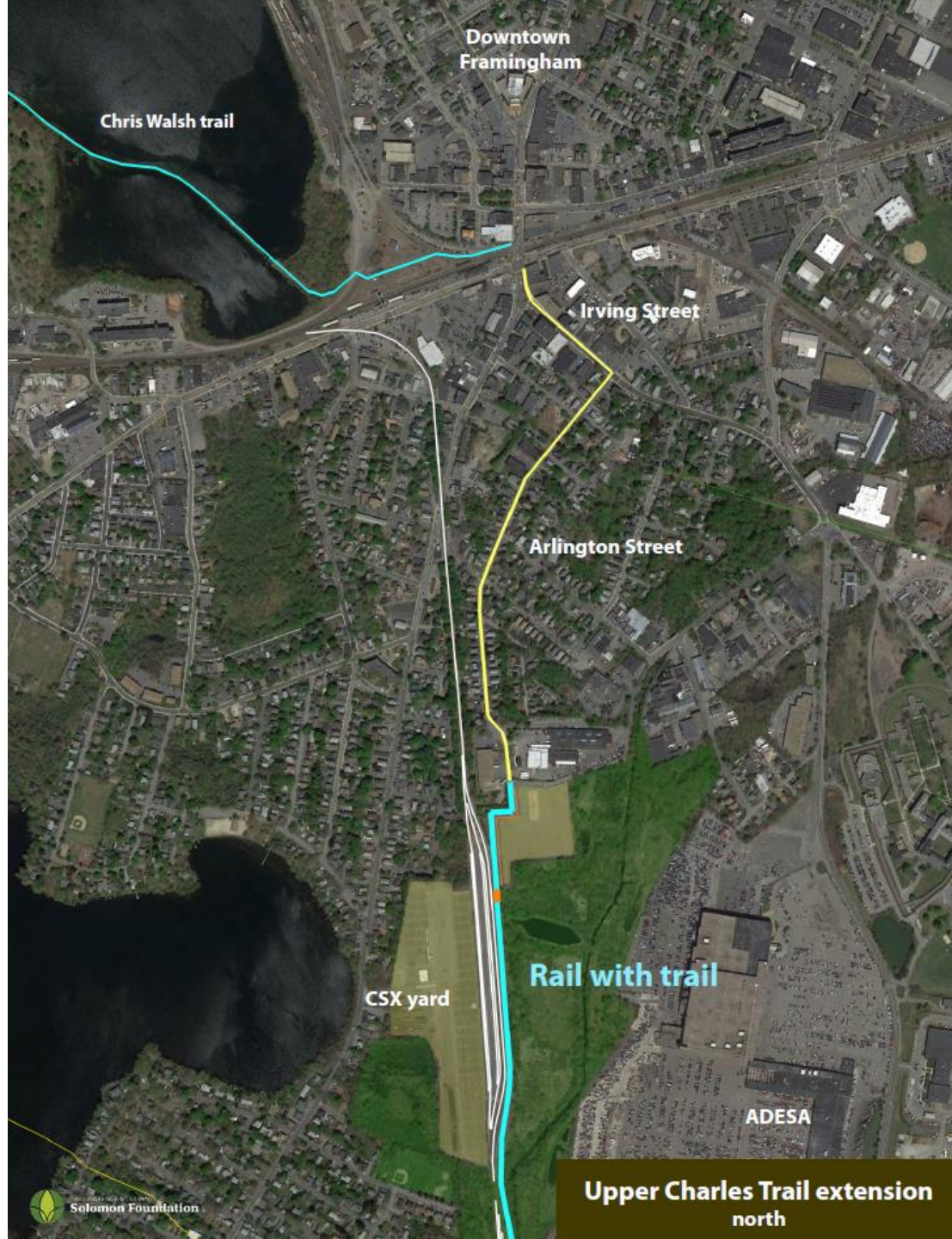
Infill development

Steeple Path







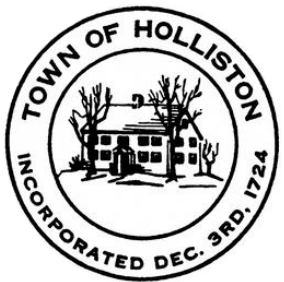


Holliston

Creative Placemaking Strategy

Archana Menon

Caoín O'Durgy



PROJECT TEAM



Archana Menon

Arts & Culture Fellow



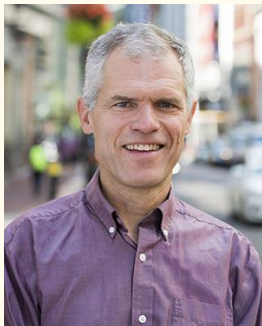
Annis Sengupta

Director of Arts & Culture



Lindsay Randall

Regional Humanities Specialist



David Loutzenheiser

Senior Transportation Planner



Camille Jonlin

Economic Development Planner II



Travis Pollack

Senior Transportation Planner

PROJECT GOALS



Strengthen **strategic connections** between trails and downtown commercial centers



Identify areas that need **inclusive signage and wayfinding** initiatives



Promote trails as **equitable public spaces** that foster connections and a sense of belonging



Connect arts and culture to larger **community revitalization** efforts

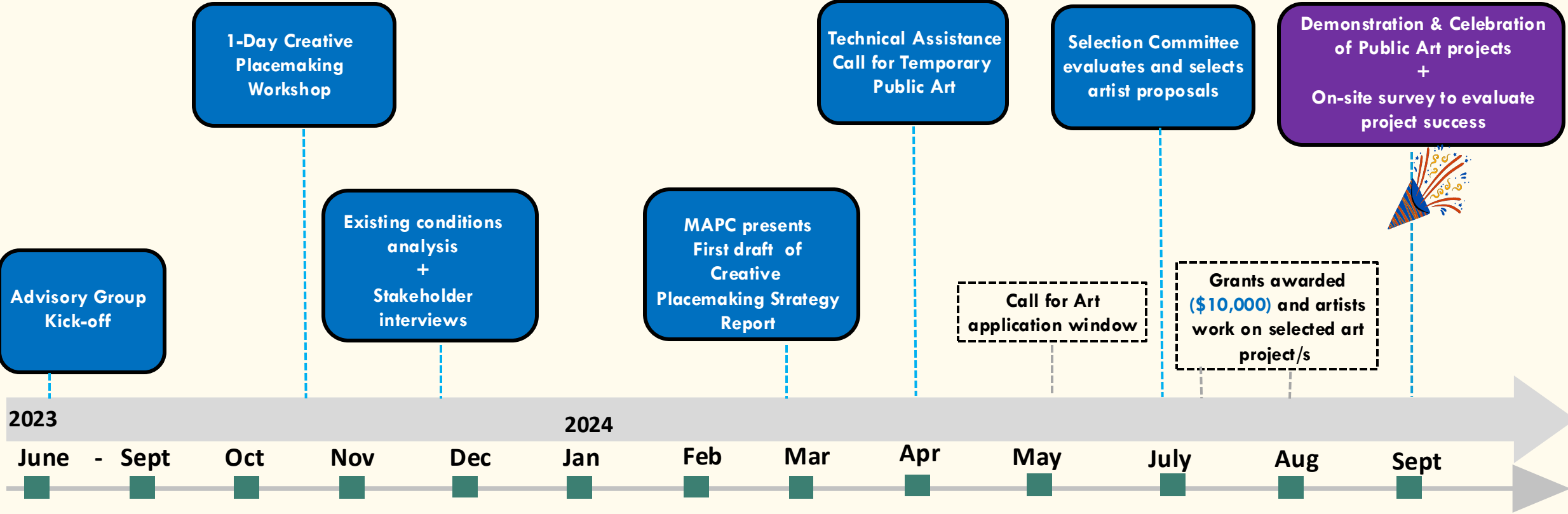


Convene a wide cross section of stakeholders to **steward arts, culture and creative placemaking** efforts in their communities



PROJECT TIMELINE

June 2023 – Aug 2024



1-DAY CREATIVE PLACEMAKING WORKSHOP



INTRODUCTION TO THE “WALKSHOP”



Guided walking tour through downtown Holliston and Blair Square to discuss:

+ how are these spaces currently being used?



+ how can these spaces be enhanced/transformed through public art and creative placemaking?



Call for Temporary Public Art



Parameters



Potential sites



Values/Guiding principles



Eligibility Criteria



Selection Criteria

SITES IDENTIFIED FOR THE CALL FOR TEMPORARY PUBLIC ART



BLAIR SQUARE



ELECTRIC BOXES

CALL FOR ARTISTS ANNOUNCED

22 APPLICATIONS
RECEIVED WITHIN 2
WEEKS



Call for Artists

Mural Art Wanted to Connect Holliston Downtown and the Rail Trail



Blair Square Pavilion and access to the Holliston Rail Trail

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) and the Town of Holliston invite artists to apply for an exciting public art opportunity.

The selected artist/artist team will receive a \$10,000 stipend to bring their vision to life.

We seek one artist or team to design and install murals at three sites.

The Three Sites

Artists are invited to submit their qualifications and preliminary concepts for mural artwork at three prominent sites where they will enhance connections between the Holliston Rail Trail and the downtown area:

1. The doors of the Blair Square Pavilion (Rail Trail at intersection with Central Street) - *photographed above*
2. The electric box at the intersection of Washington and Hollis Streets
3. The electric box at the intersection of Washington and Green Streets

Virtual Call for Artists Questions and Answers (Q&A) Session

Do you have questions you'd like to ask and get answers to before applying? Join us for a Virtual Q&A Session!

Tuesday, July 9, 2024 | 3:00 p.m. (Zoom)

[Register for the Virtual Q&A Session](#)

CAOIN O'DURGY AND THE GOOD BOY COLLECTIVE



- **Artist:** Caoin O'Durgy from Somerville, MA.
- **Team:** Leads *The Good Boy Collective* – a trans-led group of artists fostering support and collaboration in the arts.
- **Artistic Style:** Whimsical, children's book-inspired with a color-blind friendly palette.
- **Mural Vision:**
 - Connects Holliston Downtown and Rail Trail.
 - Represents Holliston's past, present, and future through vibrant illustrations.

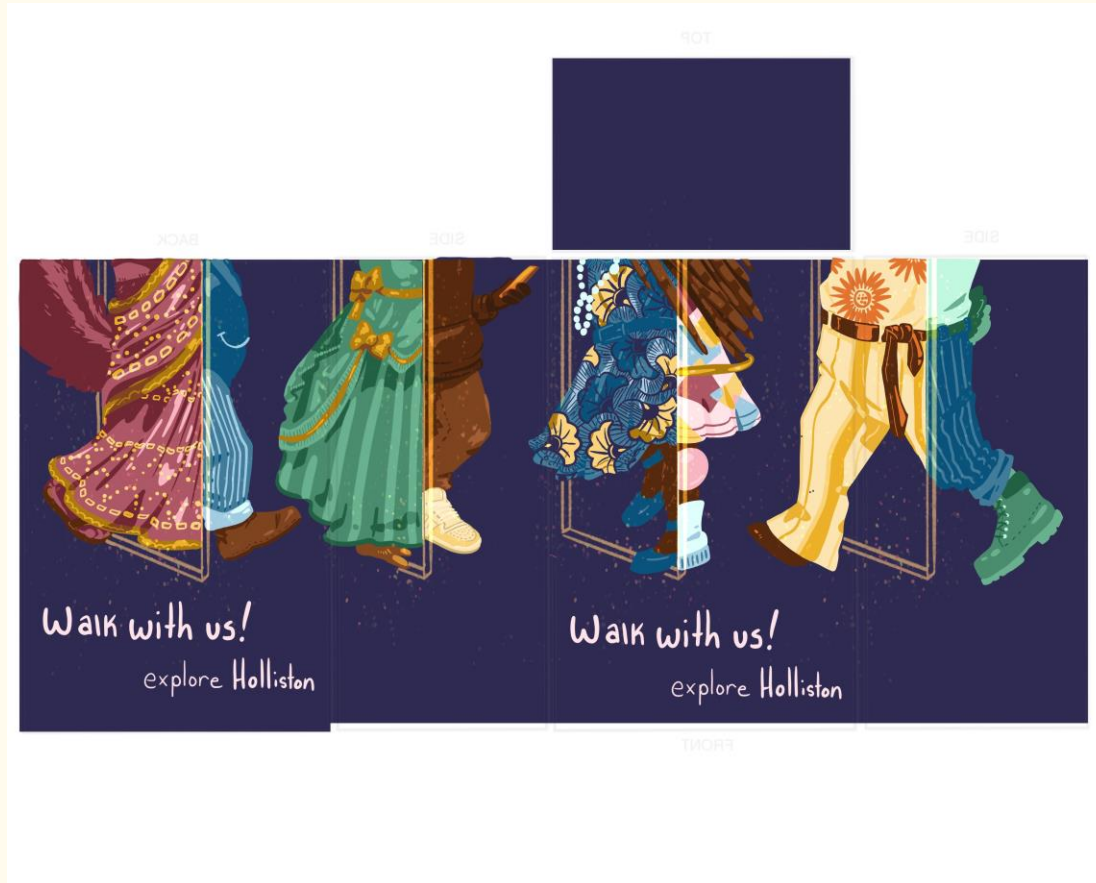




BLAIR SQUARE



2 ELECTRIC BOXES IN DOWNTOWN HOLLISTON



CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC ART



Marlborough Southborough Greenway

Priscilla Ryder



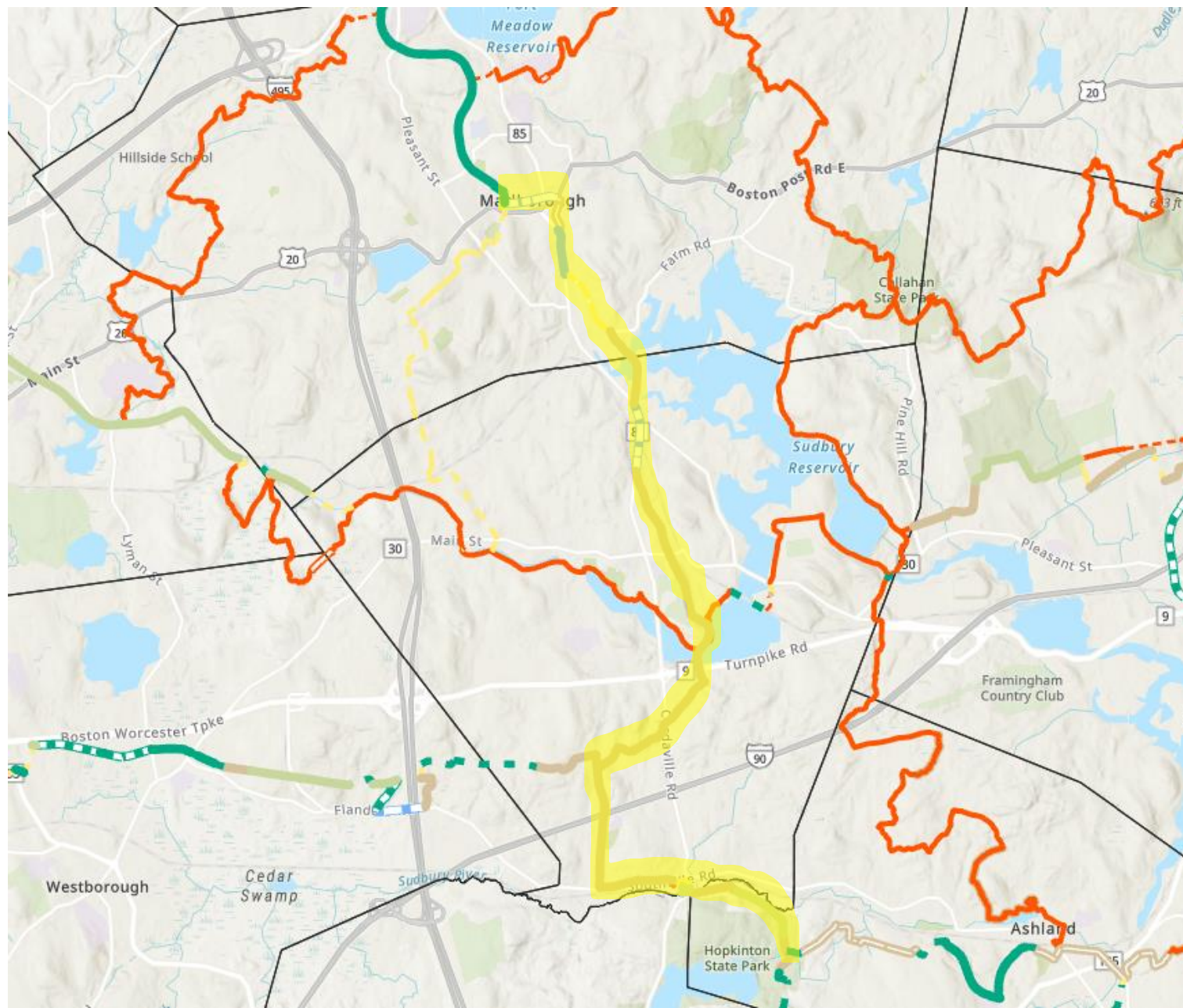
Peninsula Trail Project

- Engineering plans are being prepared for the elevated boardwalk and pedestrian bridge. Expected completion by early November.
- Working to secure NOIs from Southborough and Framingham conservation commissions.
- Out to bid in November with completion in summer 2025 Interpretative signage expected to be installed Q4 2024.
- The Peninsula Trail includes a .4 mile section of trail that meets accessibility standards (the first ADA trail segment in Southborough)

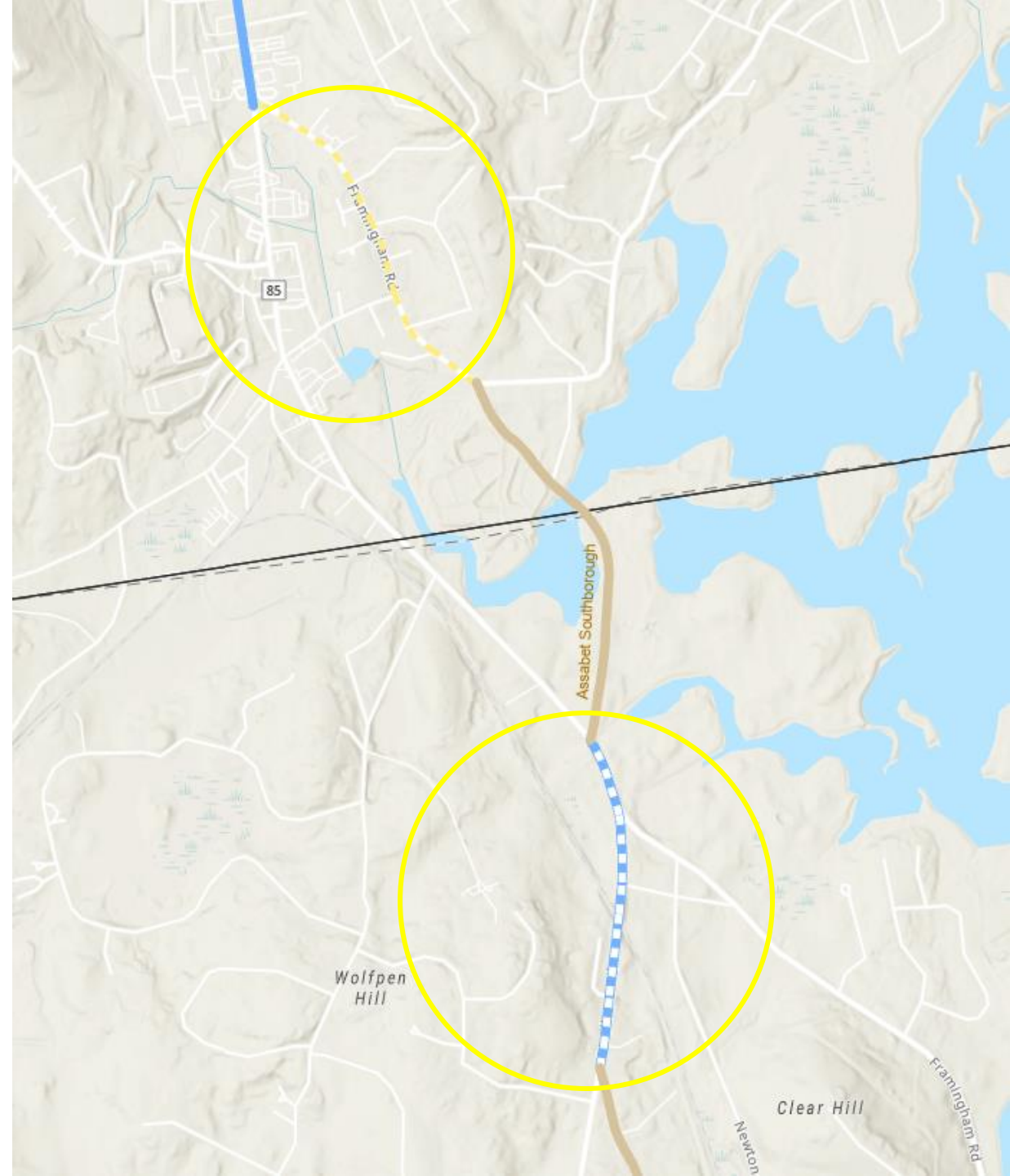




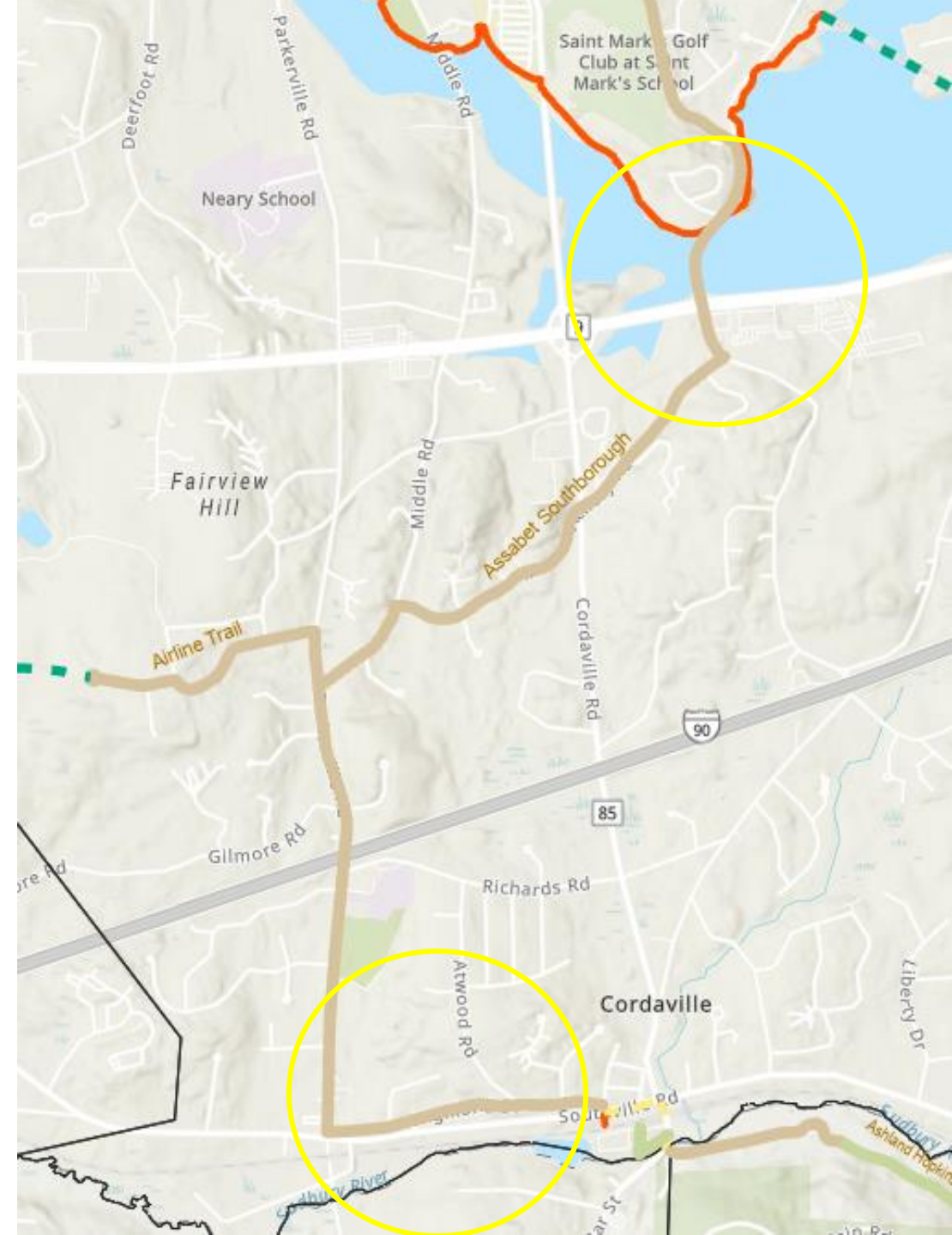
Southborough Marlborough Greenway

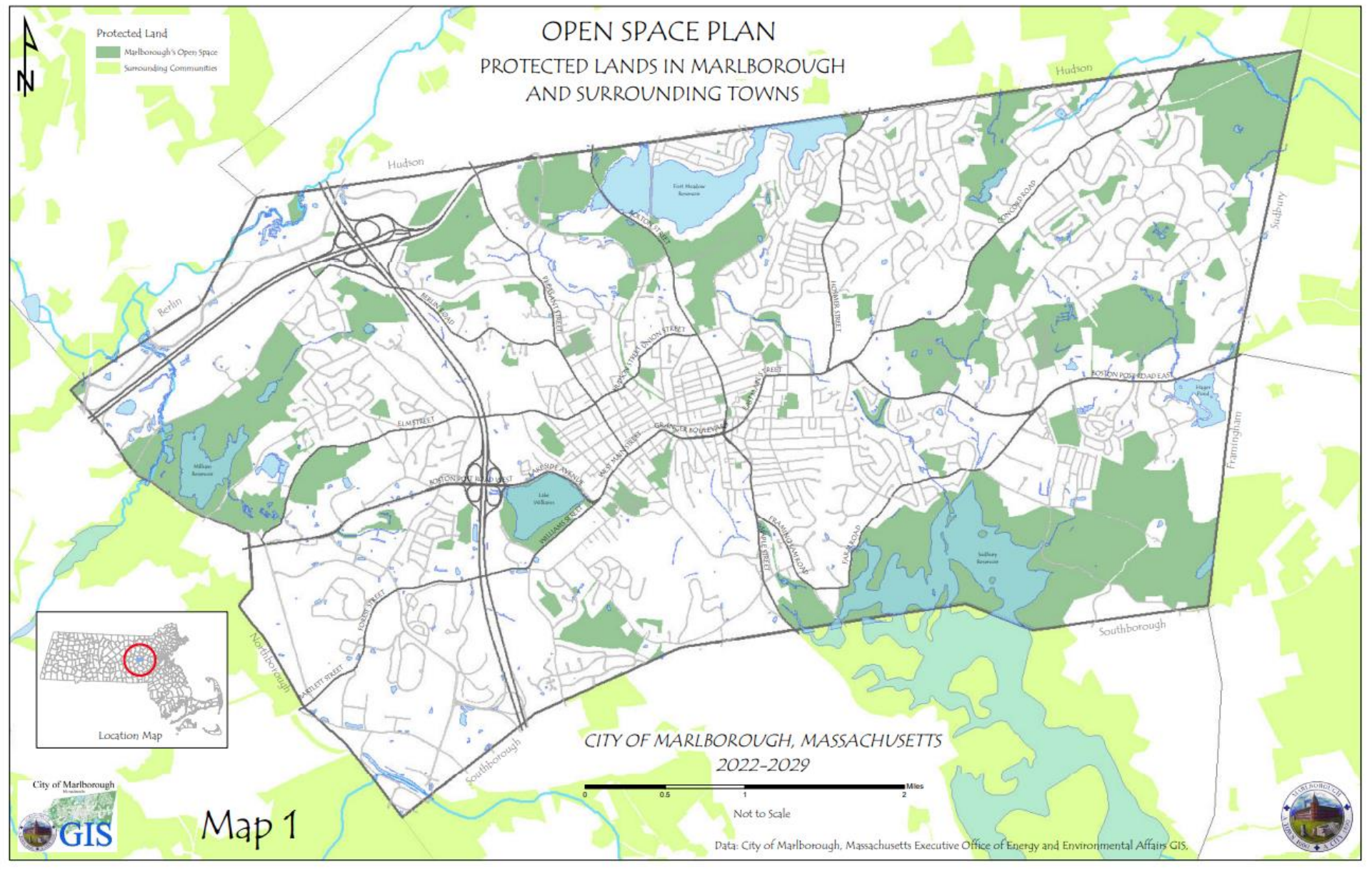


Sections needing work



Shared street sections (only signage needed)

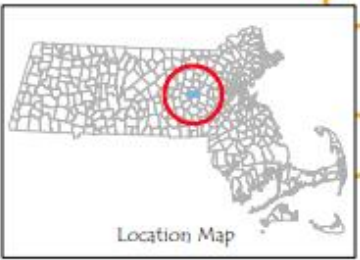
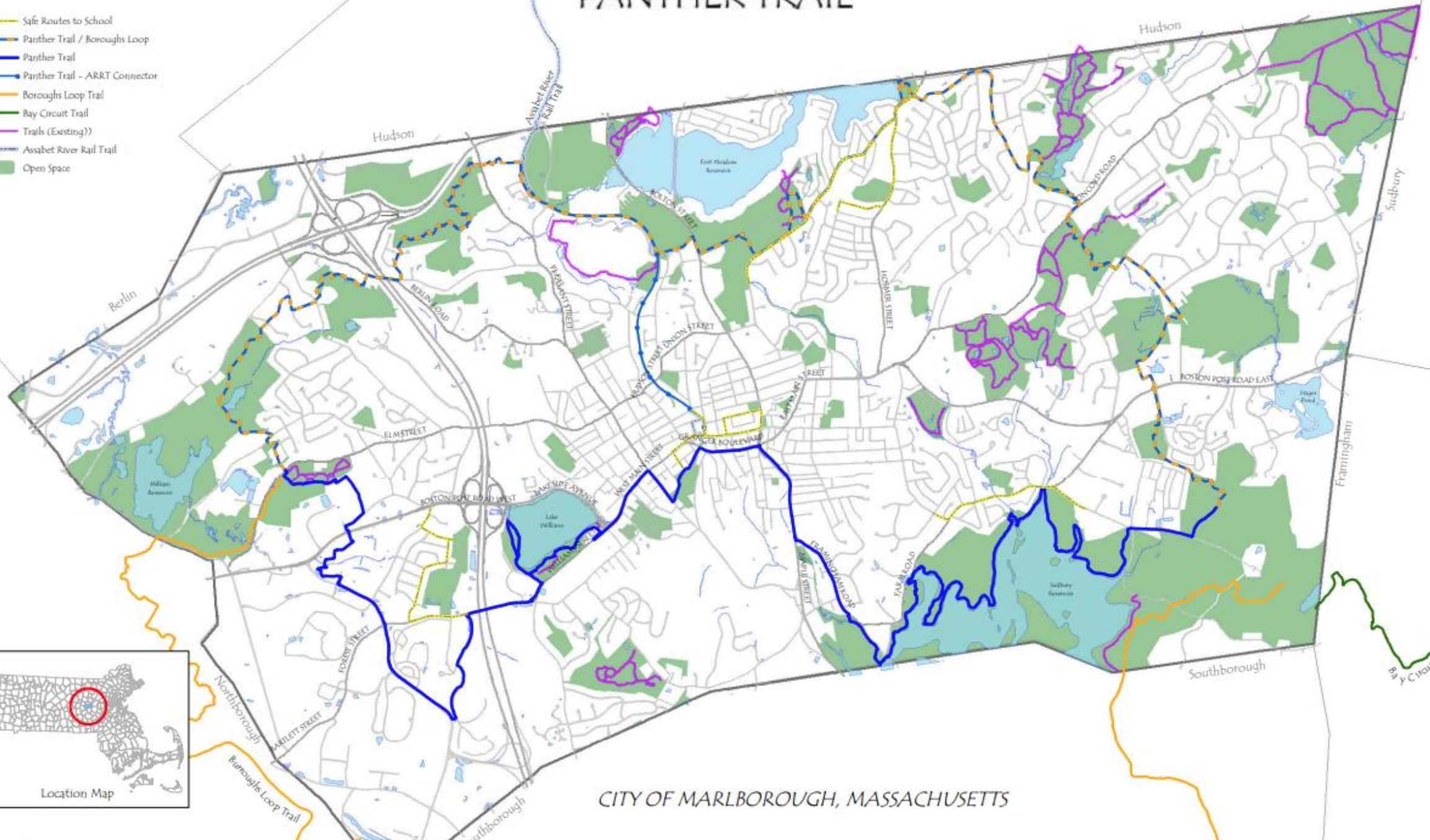




North Arrow

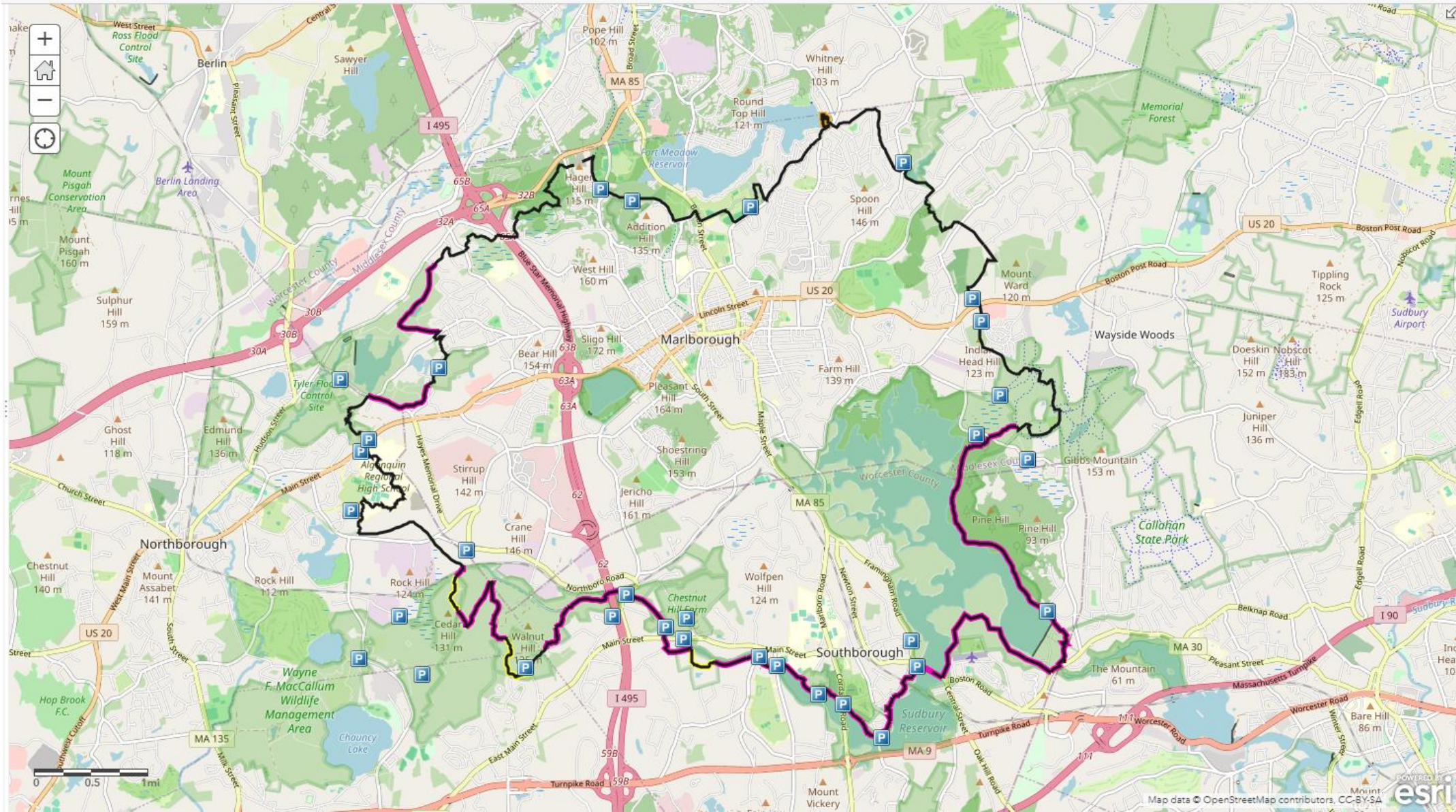
PANTHER TRAIL

- Safe Routes to School
- Panther Trail / Boroughs Loop
- Panther Trail
- Panther Trail - ARRT Connector
- Boroughs Loop Trail
- Bay Circuit Trail
- Trails (Existing?)
- Assabet River Rail Trail
- Open Space



CITY OF MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

Boroughs Loop Trail Map



dock as Marlborough opens Lake Williams Boardwalk

 **Art Illman**

Published 1:42 p.m. ET May 6, 2024 | Updated 7:23 p.m. ET May 6, 2024



Anilly Peron, 3, and Dylan Pera, 4, right, were among the first to enjoy the new Lake Williams

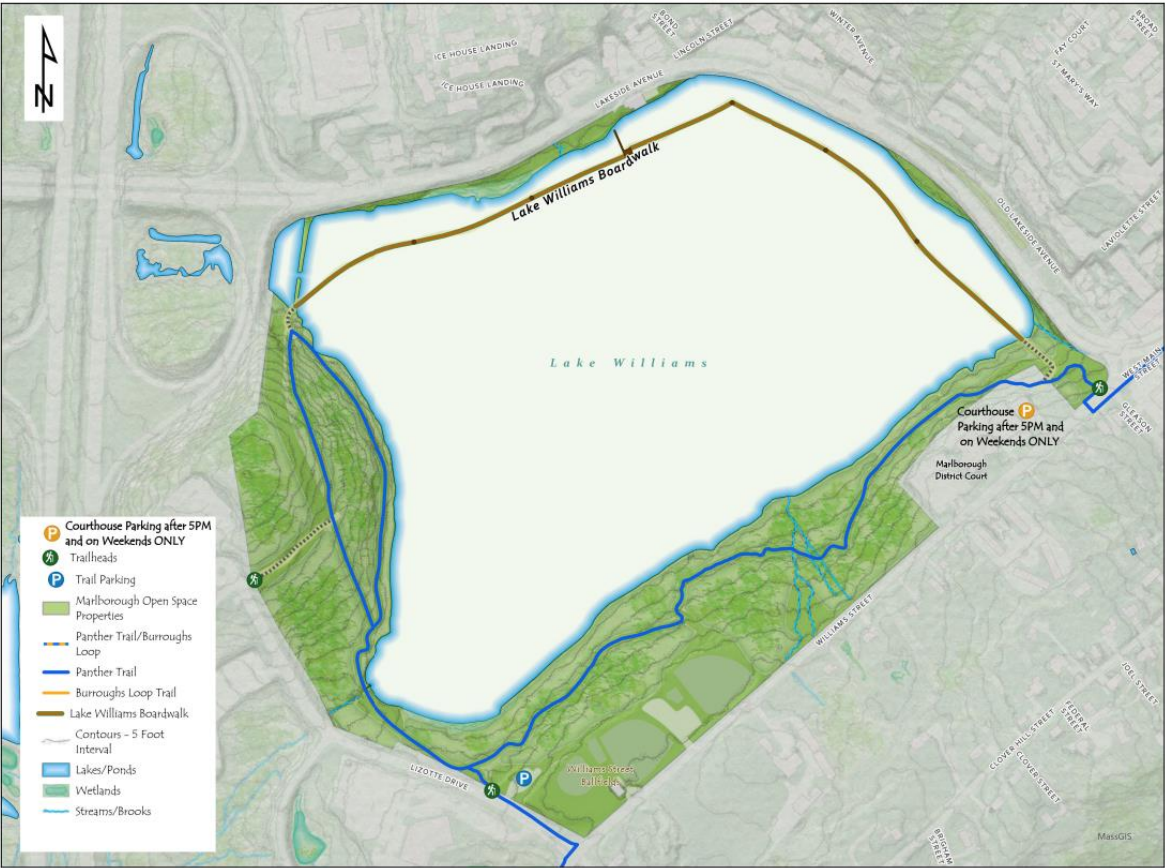
LAKE WILLIAMS BOARDWALK

GRAND OPENING & RIBBON CUTTING

Monday, May 6
12:00PM

Williams Street Entrance

Residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

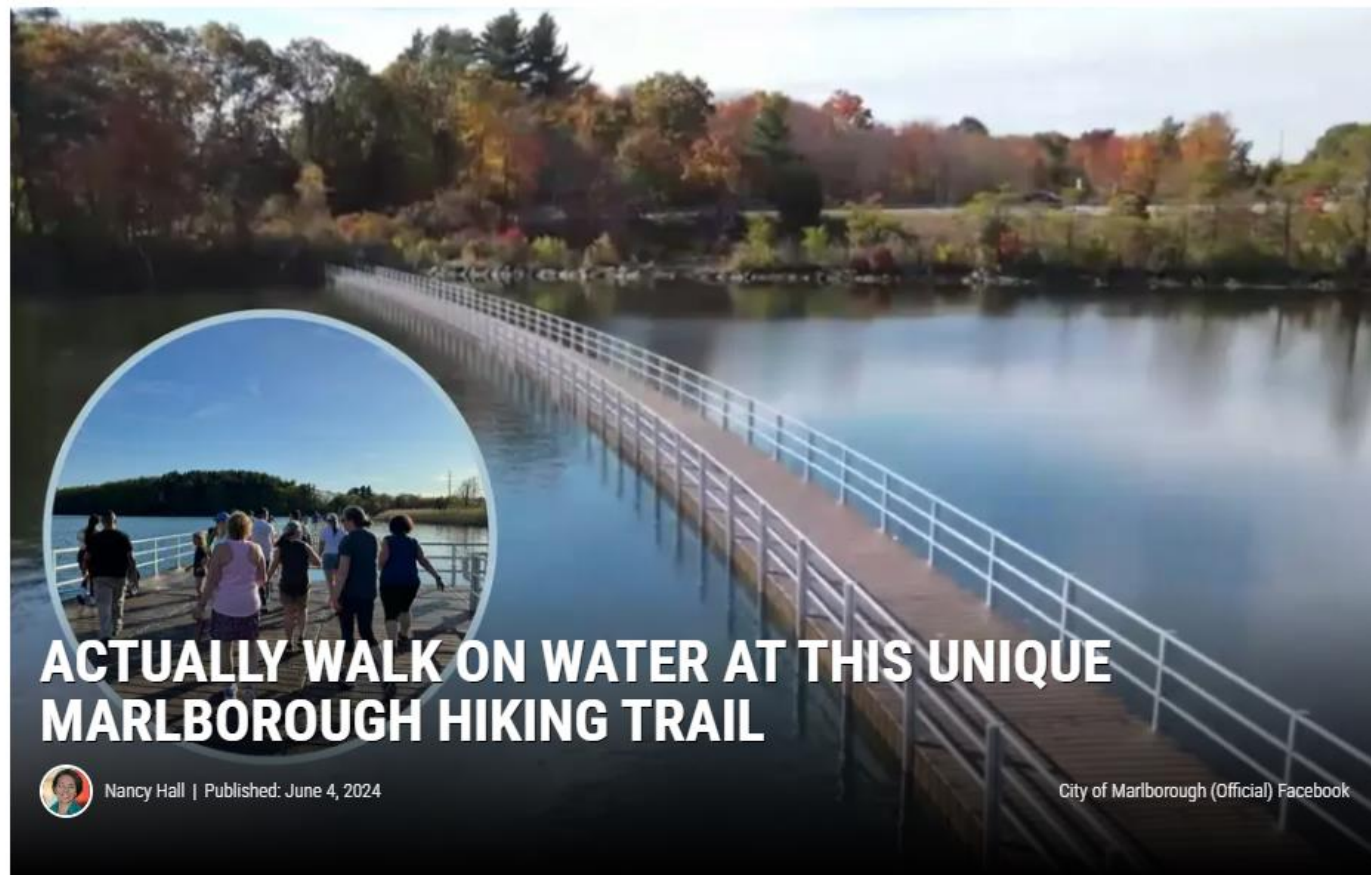
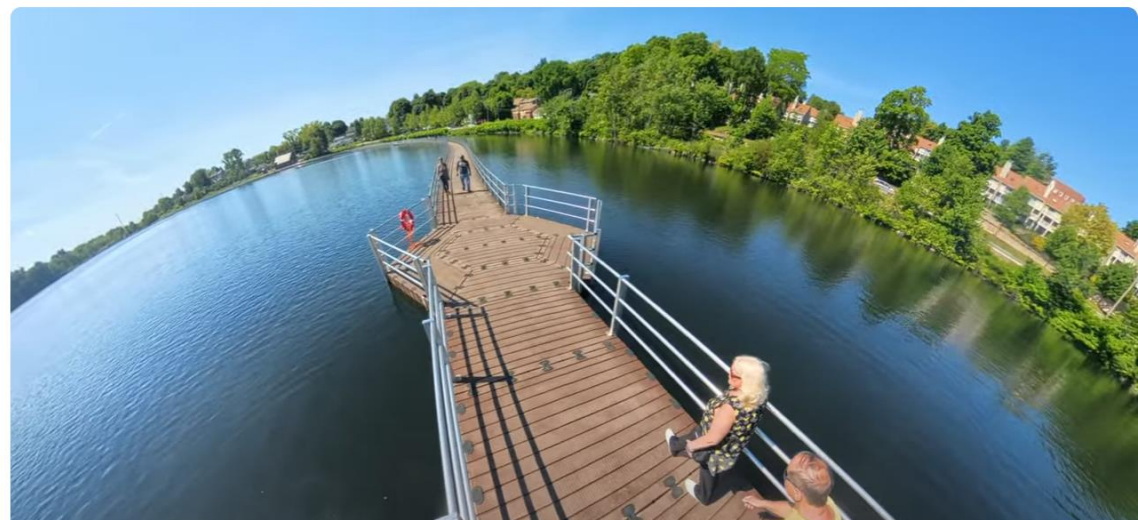




Lake Williams Floating Boardwalk, Marlborough, Massachusetts.



Lake Williams Floating Boardwalk, Marlborough, Massachusetts.



Weston Wellesley Natick

David Loutzenheiser



NATICK

- Natick Trails Summit - October 5
- New bridges at Pickerel Pond
 - Island bridge (installed by volunteers)
 - Larger connector bridge in design
- Graystone development new trails
- Sudbury Aqueduct feasibility study for completion
- Cochituate Aqueduct improvements in design
- CRT extended in 2025 to Natick Center MBTA!
- Design continues on connections to Main Street and West Natick



WELLESLEY

Washington Street Sidewalk Extension Project



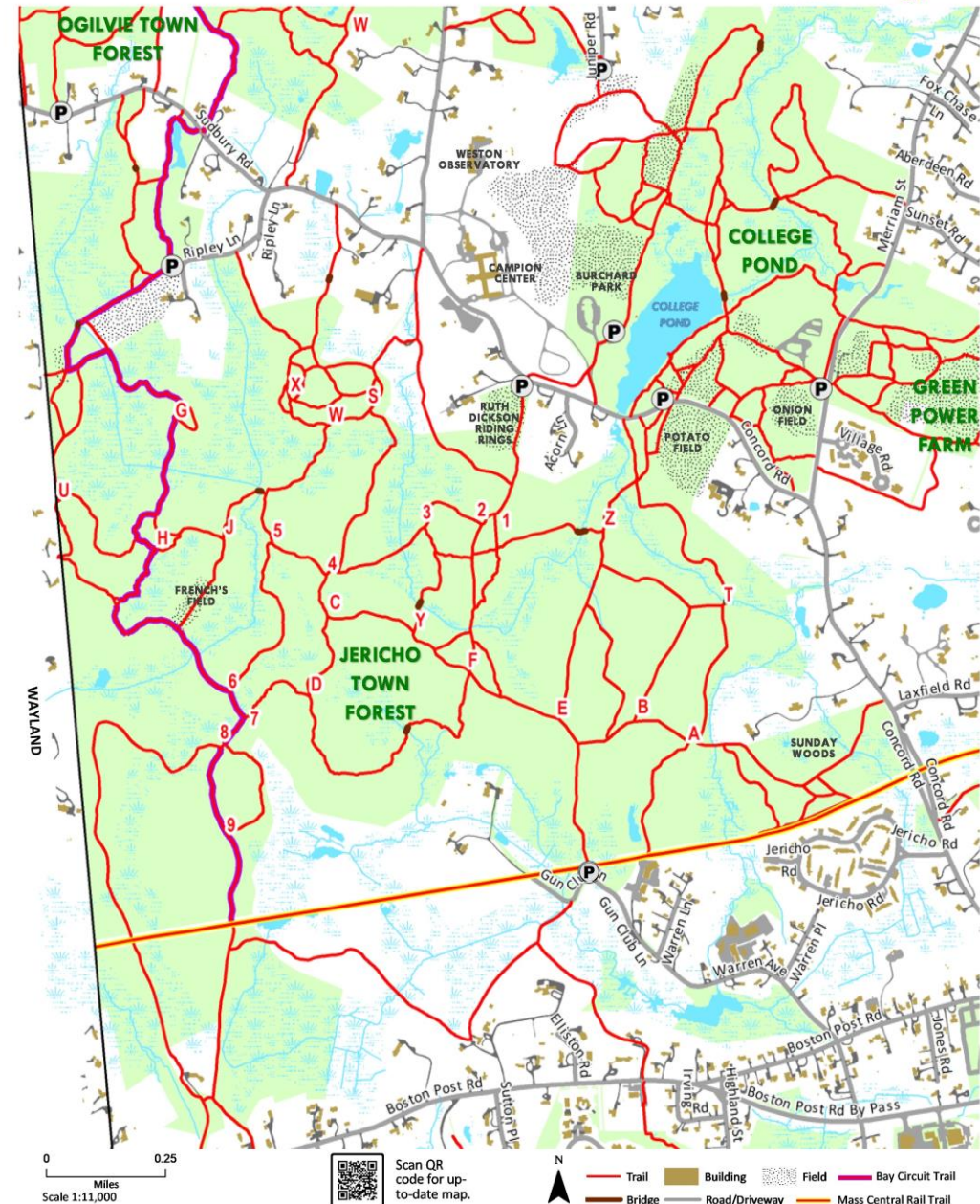
- 2,900+ Foot Sidewalk extension under construction
- Sidewalks, curbing and ADA wheelchair ramps
- Pedestrian crossing beacon on Washington Street at Cheney Drive (the Elm Bank entrance, and a scenic road)

WESTON

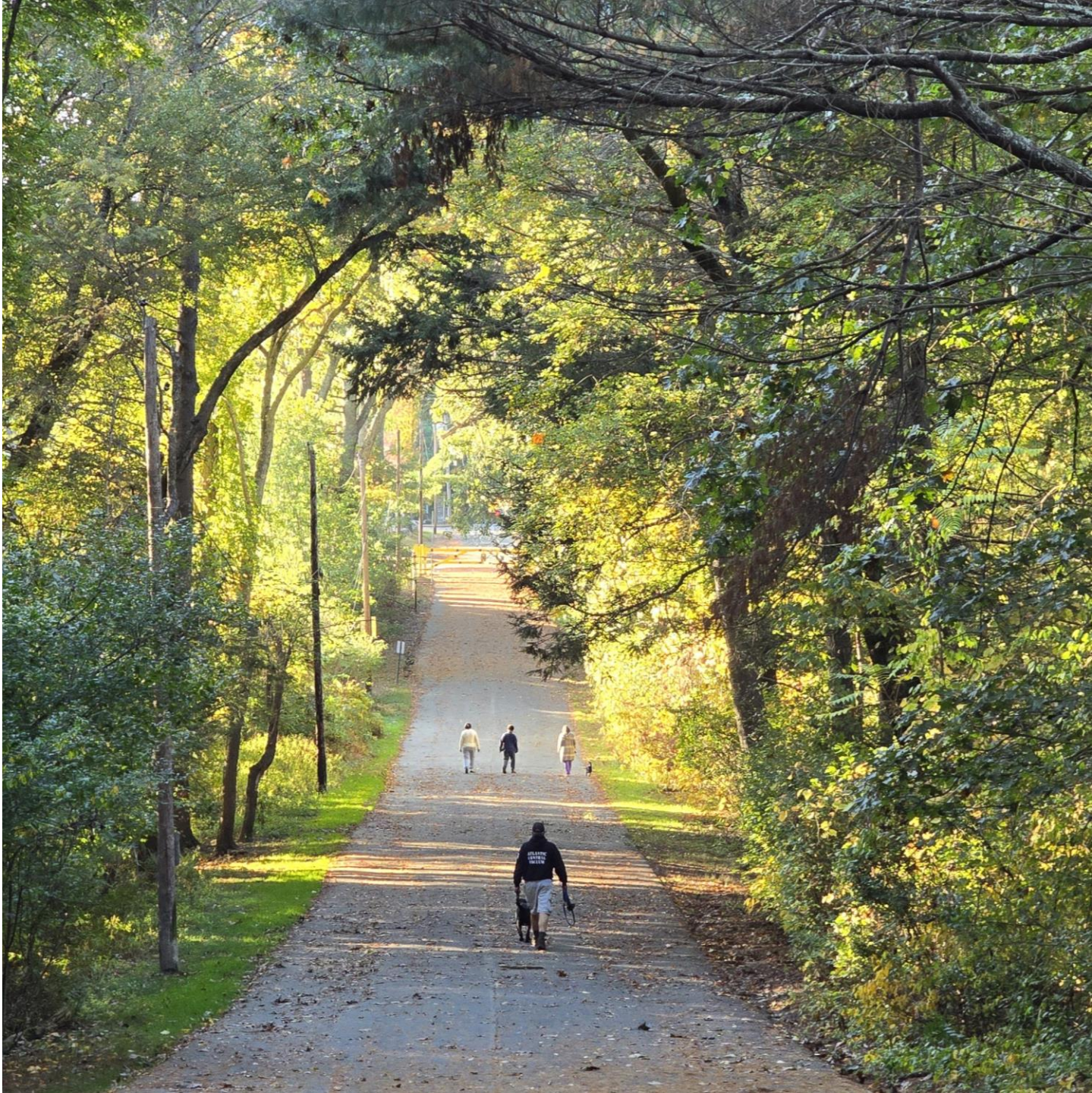
- Sample of 12 new maps around Weston
- Route 30 reconstruction including a shared use path passed at town meeting in May
- Feasibility Study on Norumbega Road to explore a shared use path on the road way by converting to one way traffic.



JERICO TOWN FOREST



QUESTIONS?



Ashland Upper Charles Trail

Peter Matchak

Michael Herbert





ASHLAND UPPER CHARLES TRIAL (UCT) UPDATE

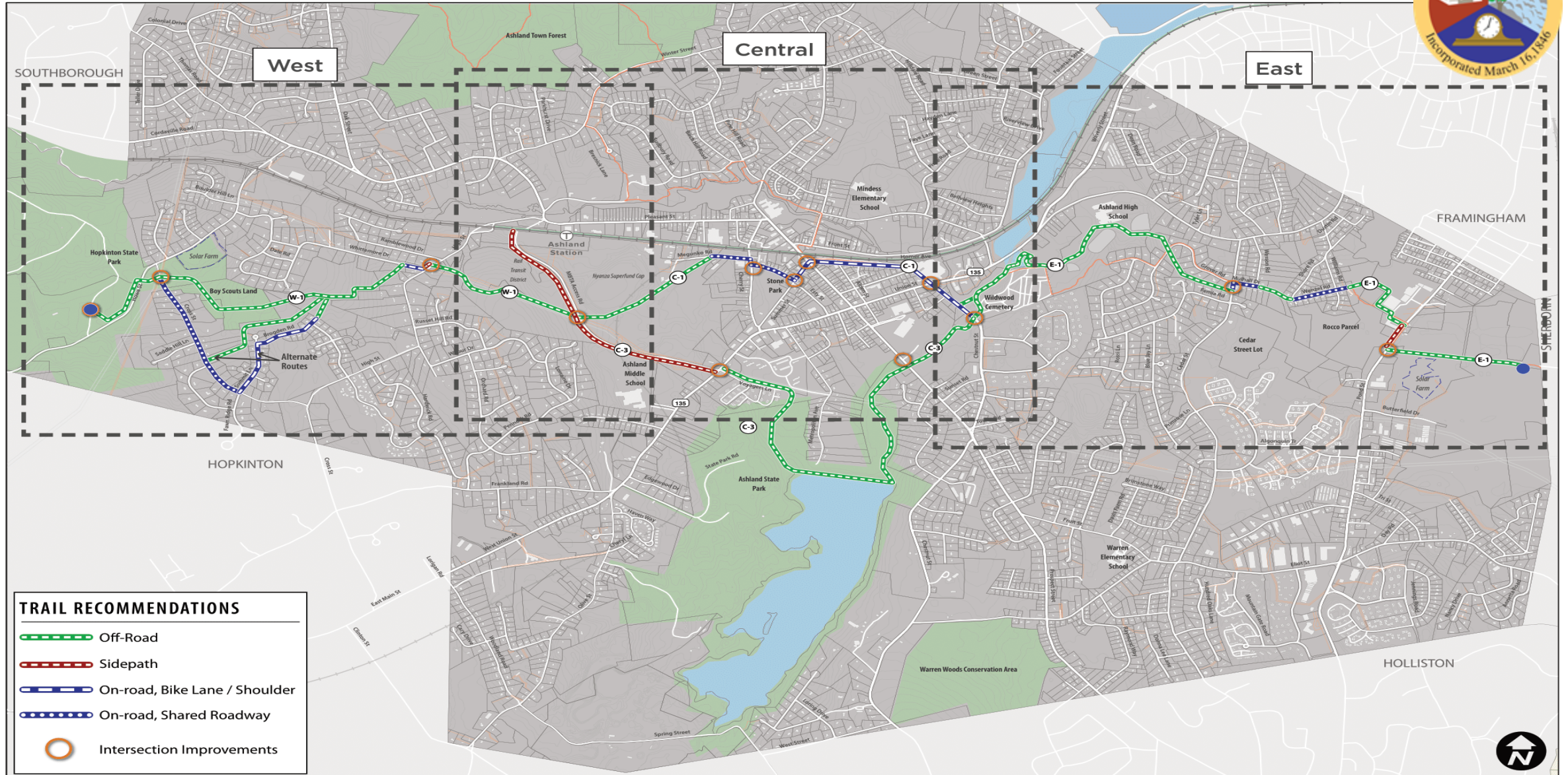


UCT OVERVIEW



- In 2017 the Town of Ashland in collaboration with ALTA Planning + Design (private transportation sustainability focus firm) developed a route for the Upper Charles Trail.
- This plan provided Ashland an overview of a potential town-wide connecting trail.
- Since 2017 this plan has allowed Ashland to start developing a phased approach to complete a town-wide trail.

ALTA 2017 ROUTE



TRAIL BENEFITS



- Recreation: Trails are accessible and outdoor opportunities for safe recreation through multiple activities like walking, jogging, cycling, etc. In addition to connectivity to Ashland's State Park is vital to the success of trails in Ashland.
- Health: Provide access to spaces and infrastructure for people to incorporate exercise to their daily routines.
- Economic: Ashland has done a lot of work towards revitalizing its downtown, and feature such as trails are a key part of that interconnectivity within the different services and options Ashland has to offer.



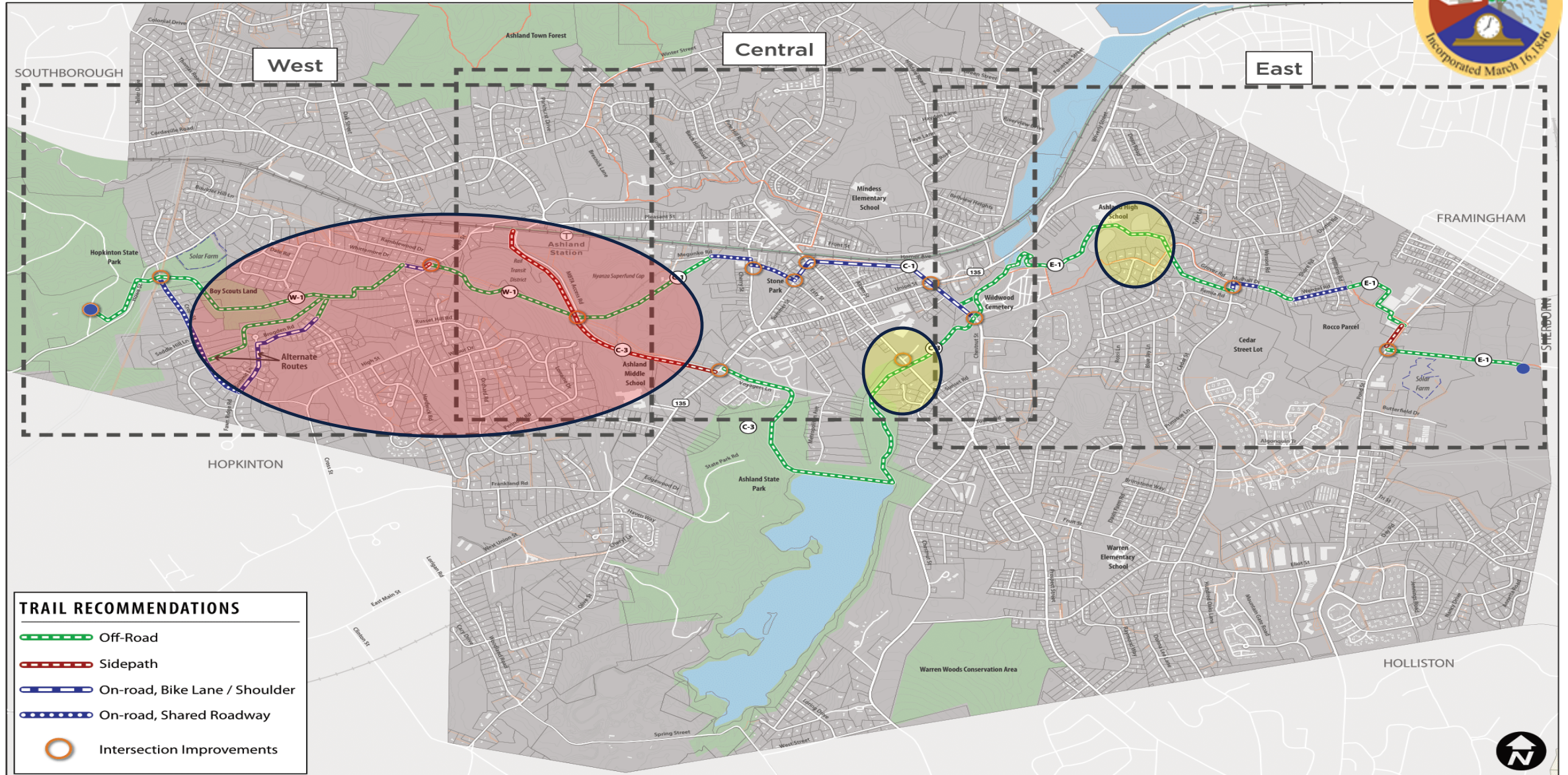
CHALLENGES



- Site Control: Only a small segment of the trail is on an abandoned rail line. Also several segments of the UCT are on private property; thus trail linkage is an issue. The town is working to analyze development of the trail, working on beneficial solutions for implementation.
- Topography: The UCT proposed route has various changes of elevation due to Ashland's topography.
- Conservation: Wetlands, riverfronts and other types of landcovers are another factor to account when planning the trails' route. Solutions could be very expensive.
- Funding!



ALTA 2017 ROUTE



Ashland YMCA New YMCA Project

Rick McPherson



Site Plan & Landscape Concept



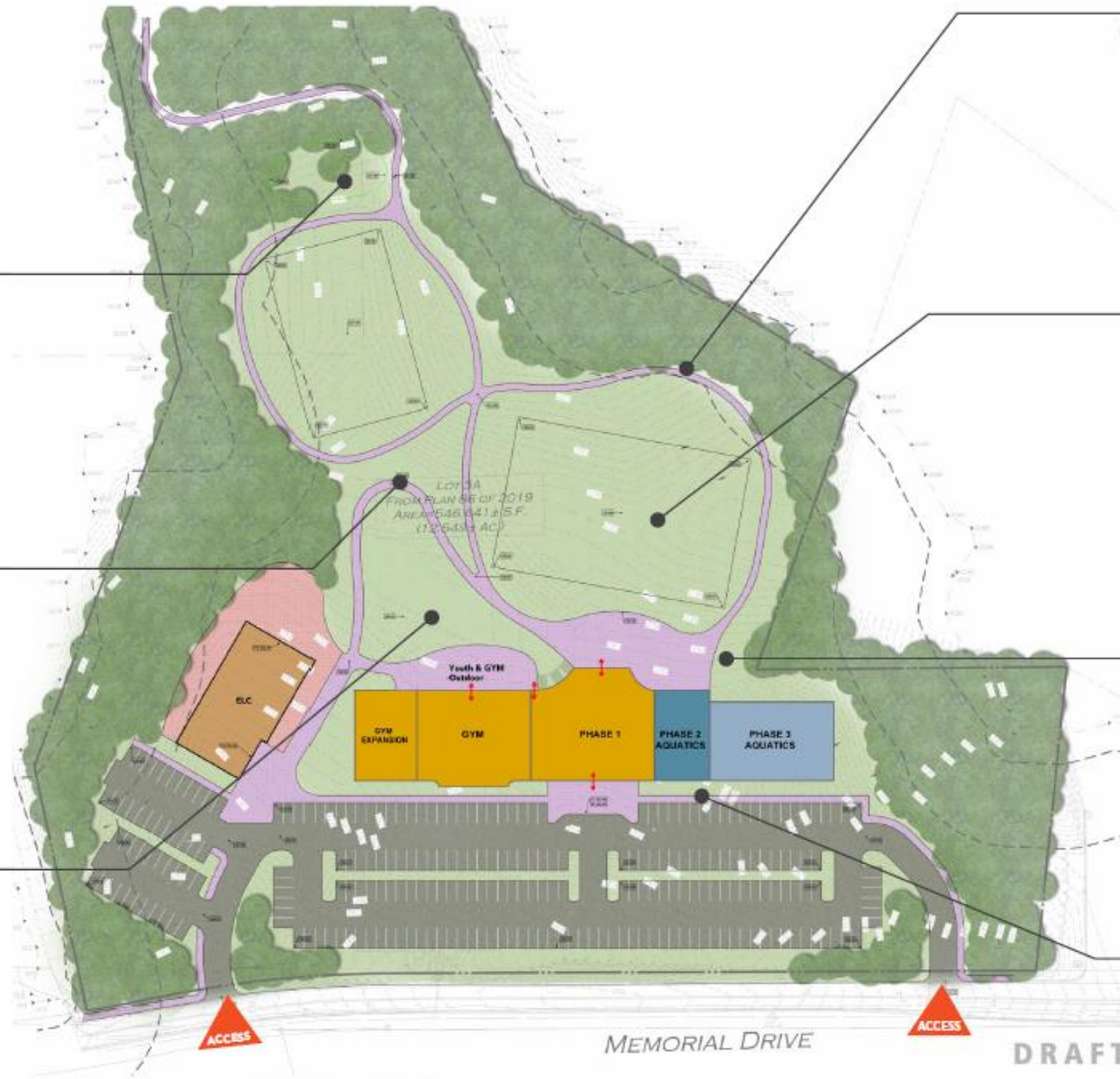
Nature's Classroom



Accessible Trails



Sledding Hill



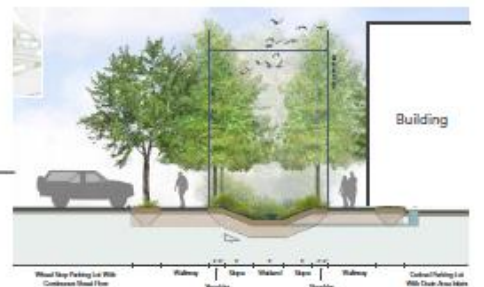
Recreational Trails



Recreational Fields



Viewing Slope



Holliston Greenbelt Trail

Elissa Landre
Martin Chadwick
Ann Marie Pilch
Georganna Woods



Broad Hill Wildlife Sanctuary

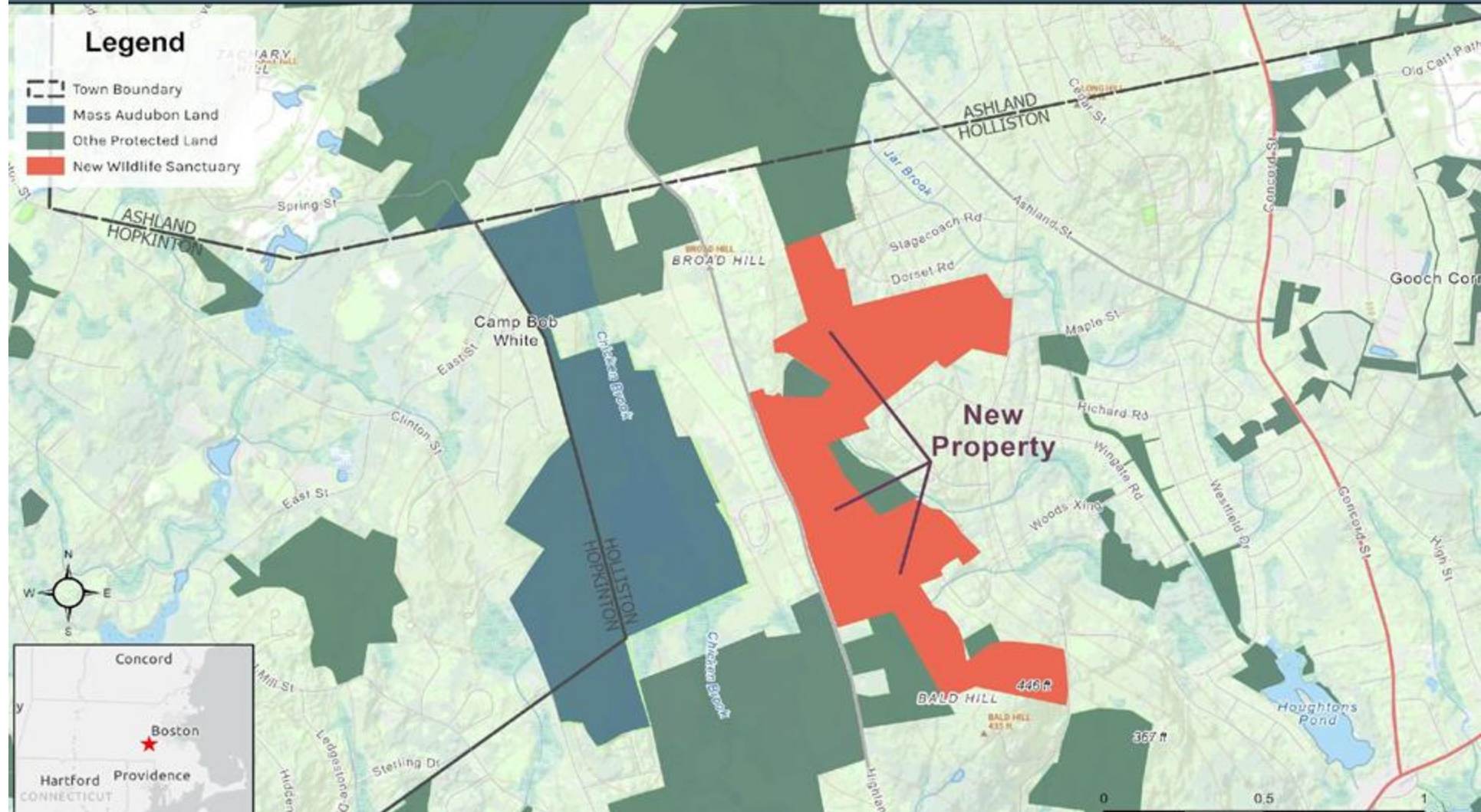
Elissa Landre and Martin Chadwick
MW Trails Summit 10-17-24



Mass Audubon

Broad Hill Wildlife Sanctuary

185 Acres in Holliston







New trail - 0.9 Mile
Loop - 1.3 Mile

60 Stonybrook Dr
Private Property

Parking Lot

Town Land



Broad Hill Wildlife Sanctuary, Holliston





Broad Hill Wildlife Sanctuary, Holliston





Male and female
Scarlet
Tanagers are
regular breeders





Broad Hill Wildlife Sanctuary, Holliston

Broad Hill Wildlife Sanctuary, Holliston







There is much to explore
in every season

And connections to be
made in the future

Holliston Greenbelt Vision

- Holliston Rail Trail/Woodland St (near 8 arch bridge) to Linden St

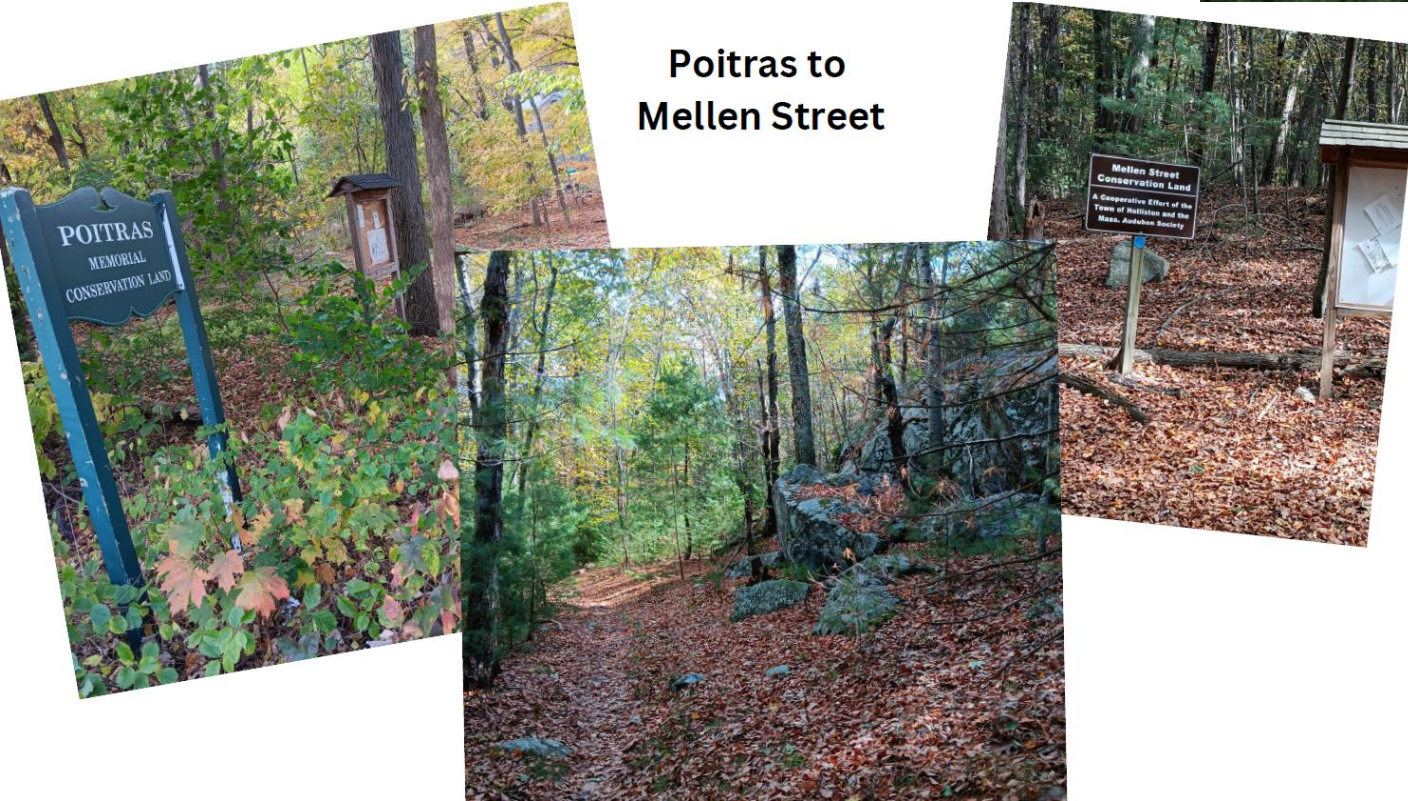


Holliston Cranberry

Holliston Greenbelt Vision

- Washington St, through Poitras Conservation land to Mellen St

Poitras to
Mellen Street



Holliston Greenbelt Vision

- Mellen St to Highland -
Informal partial trail



Framingham State Univ. Trail connections

Dale Hamel

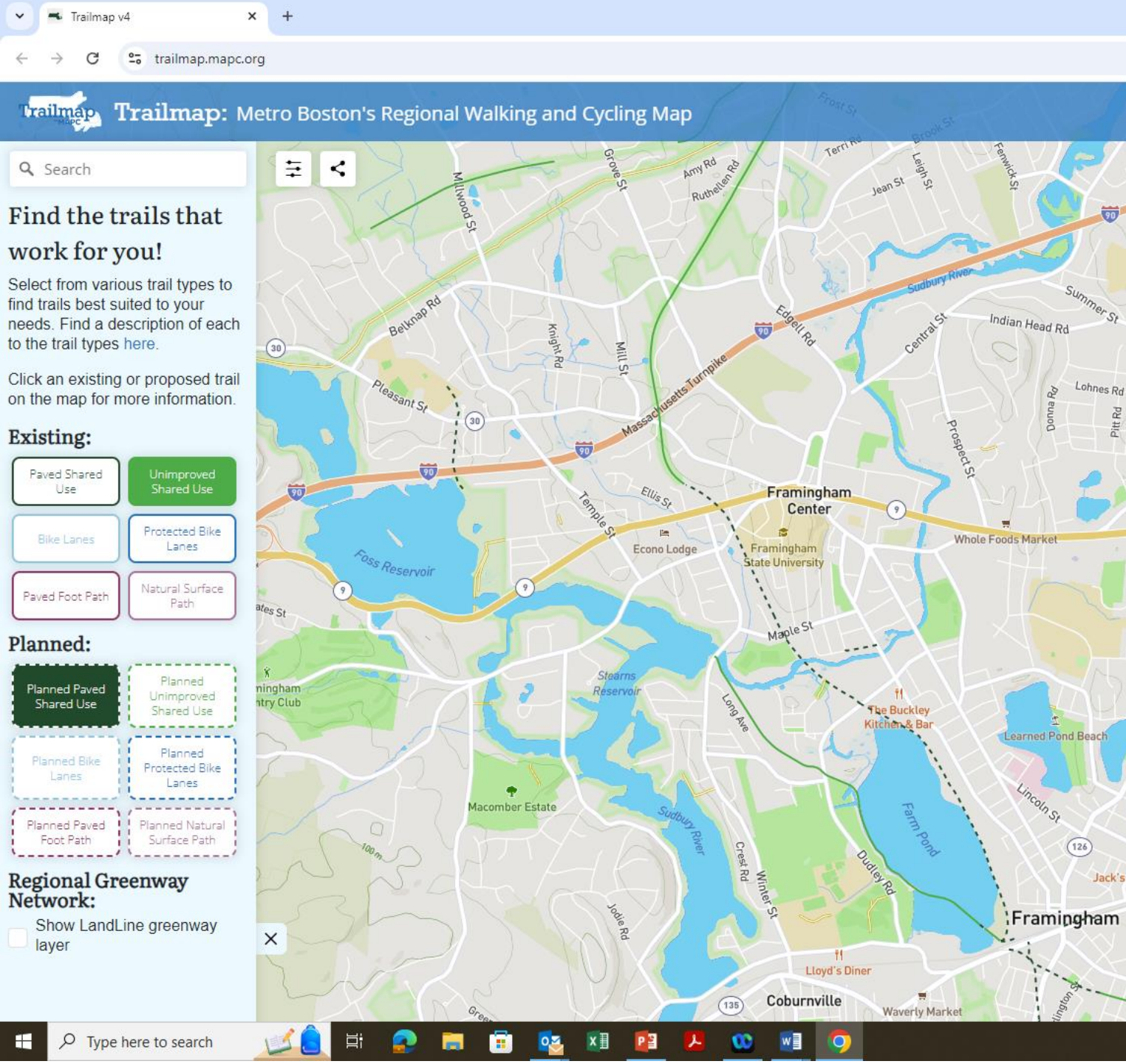


Framingham State University

MetroWest Trails

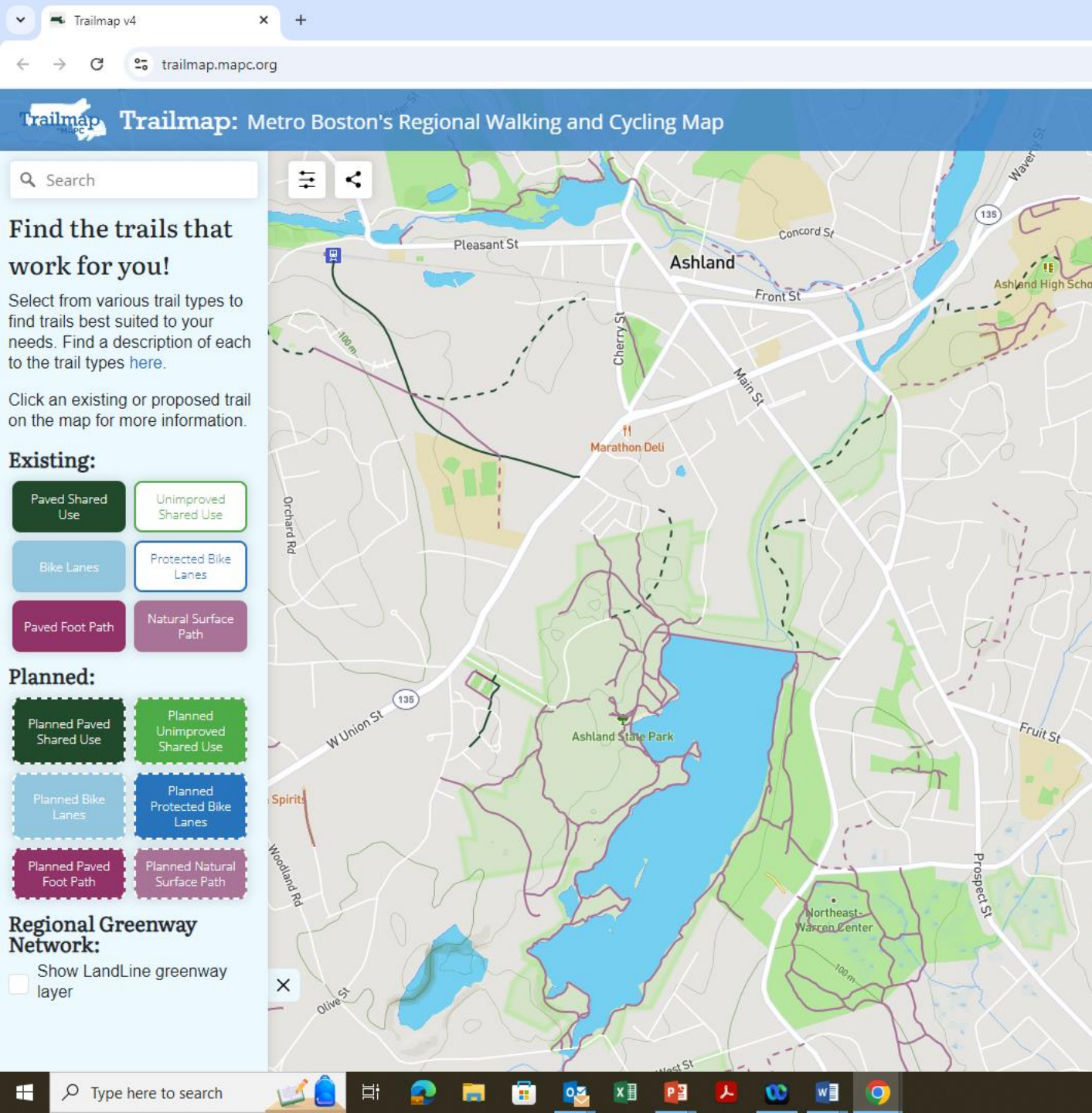
- **Willing Partner**
- **Interested Constituents**
- **Past Successful “Town-Gown” Planning and Development History**





Framingham State University - Main Campus

- Large population interested in trails access
- Planned trails expansion to connect trails north of Route 9 to City of Framingham key nexus is crossing at Route 9
 - FSU property abuts Route 9 near proposed crossing (triangular parcel is actually FSU property)
 - FSU has worked with MA DOT on a proposal to develop a pedestrian crossing at Route 9 at Maynard Road
 - Current proposal is a HAWK pedestrian crossing at-grade
 - Propose consideration of overpass at this location
 - Increased safety
 - Supports future trails plans



Framingham State University - Warren Center

- Warren Conference Center (WCC) in Ashland
- FSU's WCC abuts Town of Ashland Warren Woods and DCR trail network around Ashland Reservoir
- FSU has partnered with Town of Ashland on various WCC-associated projects
- FSU interests align with Town's to develop and connect existing natural surface trail network to other trails and Downtown Ashland
- FSU resources potentially available to support study/development as trails expansion would be attractive to WCC clients, FSU's University Community Club members, and FSU students.

DCR Trail projects around the region

Kevin Hollenbeck



Ashland State Park



Mass Central Rail Trail



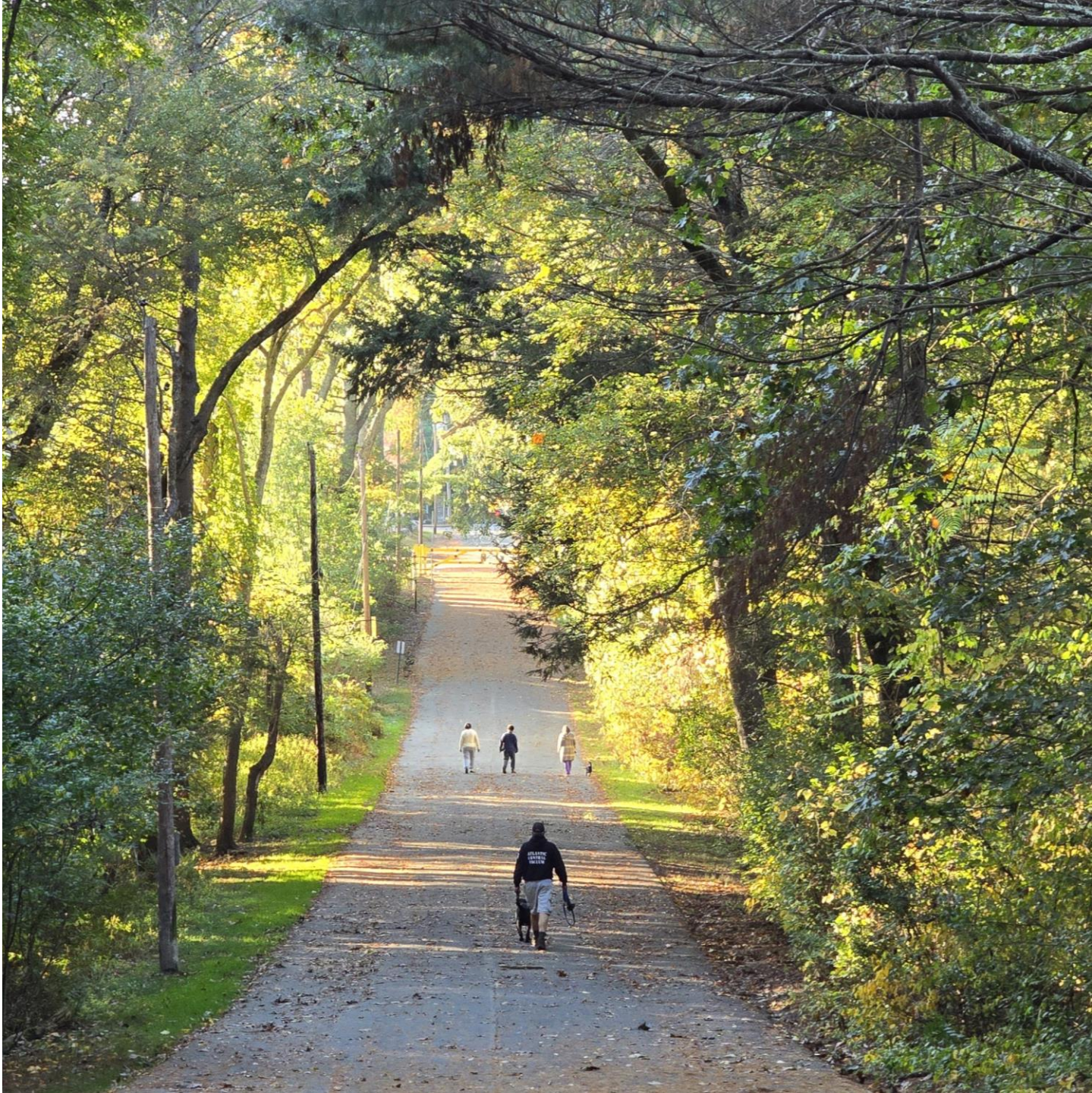
Blackstone Viaduct



Charles River Reservation



QUESTIONS?



Next Steps

Camille Jonlin

